

Hafa Adai!

Warning: Strong rip currents. **PAGE 2**

'Pagan could be next step in inviting tourists' **PAGE 3**

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# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## ANNULAR SOLAR ECLIPSE

Yesterday's partial annular solar eclipse, when the moon passed between the sun and Earth and partially blocked the sun's light from reaching Earth, is seen in this photo taken on Beach Road at about 5pm, with the sun setting in the Saipan Lagoon behind a World War II tank. Another annular solar eclipse will take place over the Marianas on June 21, 2020; however, next year's eclipse will cover a smaller percentage of the sun than yesterday's eclipse.

BILL BEZZANT

# NMC awarded \$21.9M

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded \$21.9 million to the Northern Marianas College to aid in the institution's recovery efforts following the onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu that left the college's As Terlaje campus in ruins.



Elipitico

In a historic first, NMC was chosen as one of seven other higher education schools to receive funding from the U.S. Department of Education's Emergency Assistance to Institutions of Higher Education program, with NMC being the highest

See NMC on **Page 4**

## Christmas count tallies 2,343 birds

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**  
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REPORTER

Over a dozen people who took part in the national Christmas Bird Count last Dec. 18 counted a total of 2,343 birds and 48 various species on Saipan alone.

"Participants saw endemic

species (species found only in the CNMI), and over 20 migrant species." said Emilee Kohler of the Division of Fish and Wildlife. "They also detected three of our endangered bird species: the Saipan reed warbler, Mariana common moorhen, and the Mariana swiftlet."

A Christmas Bird Count will also be held on Rota and Tinian, "so we are excited to see what species our fellow birders find there this year," said Kohler.

Nationally, the bird count this year also discovered six new species: the common

See BIRDS on **Page 4**

## 'No more reason for recovery delays'

By **MARK RABAGO**  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

With many homes still wrecked and roofless from the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu, it is being hoped that the U.S. Congress' approval of

a bill that green lights 3,000 CNMI-Only Transitional Worker permits for construction workers would speed up disaster recovery work in the CNMI.

"We still have many families living in tents due to the

limited construction workers on the islands," said Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Velma Palacios. She said the passage of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) H.R. 4479 or Disaster

See RECOVERY on **Page 4**

## Christmas typhoon leaves 16 dead in PH

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—A typhoon that barreled through the central Philippines over Christmas left at least 16 people dead and forced thousands to flee their homes, officials said.

Typhoon Phanfone made landfall on Christmas Eve and hit several islands in the Visayas group on Christmas day in the predominantly Catholic country. It brought heavy rains, strong winds

and flash floods that caused thousands to evacuate their homes and left thousands more stranded in ports around the country.

Several people were still See RECOVERY on **Page 4**

## INSIDE



### LOCAL

McDonald's Saipan honor their employees with awards in recognition of their hard work.

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### BUSINESS

Executive chef Peng Hui Xiang brings his expertise to the Fisherman's Wharf Restaurant.

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### LIFE & STYLE

A North Carolina student who saved his classmates from a shooter is named a Jedi master.

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## Local

### NWS warns of strong rip currents

The public is being warned that there is a high risk of rip currents through the middle of next week.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, dangerous and frequent rip currents are projected along east facing reefs of Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan and along east and north facing reefs after Sunday up to the middle of next week.

Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers

away from shore into deeper water. Experienced swimmers should swim near a lifeguard, and never swim alone. Inexperienced swimmers should stay out of the water. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Do not swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help.

The public is advised to avoid venturing out along east facing reefs and beaches. Strong rip currents will be life-threatening. *(Saipan Tribune)*



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## 'Pagan could be next step in inviting tourists'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Pagan, the only one in the Marianas chain of islands with black sand, could potentially be the next step in luring tourists to the CNMI, according to Commonwealth Ports Authority board member Pete P. Reyes.

He highlighted the unique features of the island as the CPA board took its first steps toward developing Pagan with the initial meeting of the Pa-

gan Ad Hoc Committee last Dec. 19. The CPA board created the committee last month to try and develop the airport and seaport of Pagan Island.

Present at the meeting were Ad Hoc Committee members, several CPA board members, CPA staff, Public Lands Secretary Marianne Teregeyo, and Northern Islands Mayor Vicente B. Santos.

In an interview with Reyes last Friday, Dec. 20, he said that among the topics they

talked about at the committee's first meeting was the required size of the land where they would need to put up an airport.

The committee tasked the CPA staff to bring this to CPA's engineering department to determine the size of the land they would need for the airport, said Reyes, who chairs the CPA board's committee

on seaport facilities and also serves as vice chairman of the Pagan Ad Hoc Committee.

It was the ad hoc committee's belief, Reyes said, that they would need at least 8,000 feet of landing space, and possibly about 1,000 feet wide.

"So that would be the initial phase of the project," said Reyes, adding that they also need to build a small terminal, somewhat similar to the com-

muter terminal on Saipan.

The committee will meet next in January 2020.

Reyes said they are working with the Department of Public Lands to determine which part of Pagan can they develop small airport for a 10-seater plane.

He said DPL is now awarding over 50 agricultural homesteads lots on Pagan, and whoever will be awarded these properties would need to travel back and forth between Pagan and Saipan.

Reyes said there is a need to

develop reasonable improvement on the island's dock to encourage boats from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to go there.

He said they are hoping that the Northern Islands mayor might want to put in a fuel storage tank on Pagan, not only for the purpose of providing for any type of generators that may be used there for the residents but also for the small boats that may go there.

Reyes said some boats can only go there with enough fuel to reach the island but have not enough fuel in coming back.



Reyes

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# McDonald's recognizes dozens of employees

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

McDonald's Guam and Saipan threw a banquet for their employees at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan last Dec. 23 to show their appreciation for their hard work throughout the year and to

confer upon them various categories of awards.

The event, called the 26th Annual Employee Appreciation Dinner, saw McDonald's Guam and Saipan owners Joe Ayuyu Sr. and Marcia Ayuyu and McDonald's Saipan area supervisor Joe Ayuyu Jr. hand-

ing out service awards, perfect attendance awards, employee of the quarter awards, and the employee of the year award.

The employee of the year award was given to John Tyron Rizo, a McDonald's employee for over a year, for his outstanding performance for



Employee of the Year John Tyron Rizo, middle, poses for a photo during the 26th Annual McDonald's Recognition Dinner last Monday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

## RECOVERY

From Page 1

Recovery Workforce Act will "provide remedy for our current construction labor situation."

She pointed out that recovery on Saipan and Tinian has slowed down since Super Typhoon Yutu.

"As our community continues to experience catastrophic disasters, the need to rebuild quickly and efficiently is dire now more than ever. After experiencing a construction labor shortage since Super Typhoon Soudelor in August 2015, our physical infrastructure was not prepared for the onset of 200-plus mile wind gusts from Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018. H.R. 4479 would provide remedy for our current construction labor situation, allowing more families to return to safe and secure housing before we experience the next super typhoon," said Palacios.

With Sablan's bill, the CNMI can be assured of a construction labor force for a period of three years to help the island infrastructure strengthened to prepare for any future natural disasters, she added.

"For businesses, government agencies, and families alike, increasing our construction labor workforce by 3,000 individuals over the next three years would better prepare the physical infrastructure for future disasters; stabilize our disaster-prone, fluctuating economy; and keep people safe. Children could return to their classrooms rather than spending hours on end learning in tents. Families would no longer have to sleep in tents under extreme weather conditions. Businesses could reopen their establishments, providing revenue to both the Commonwealth and their families. We take the importance of physical protection for granted, but for people struggling to

recover in the Commonwealth, they know what having a concrete roof over their heads means for their family's safety," she said.

For acting Labor secretary Jeff Camacho, Sablan's bill is crucial as the CNMI continues to experience a severe lack of construction workers even as it still reels from the destruction of Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018.

"Over a year after Super Typhoon Yutu devastated our islands, the CNMI is still recovering. After the Philippines was removed from the list of countries eligible for the H-2B program, the CNMI's long-time source for construction workers dwindled, stalling repairs and construction on damaged homes, businesses, and public institutions. The Department of Labor is grateful for federal support and hopeful that H.R. 4479 will speed efforts," he said.

In his recent newsletter, Sablan announced last Dec. 23 that H.R. 4479 was accepted as a rider to the fiscal 2020 appropriations bill that U.S. Congress passed and that President Donald J. Trump has promised to sign into law.

"Three thousand more CW permits will be available for typhoon recovery work this year and in 2021 and 2022," he said.

Sablan's Disaster Recovery Workforce Act provides the 3,000 new CW permits this year and in 2021 and 2022. The CW permits may only be issued for construction work related to recovery from a presidentially declared major disaster or emergency, such as Typhoon Mangkhut or Super Typhoon Yutu, or to prepare for a future disaster or emergency.

Aside from the 3,000 construction worker permits, the bill will also make available to the CNMI \$244 million in Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery as well as \$56 million for solid waste,

\$10.2 million for sewer and water infrastructure, and Economic Development Administration grants to rebuild schools and homes.

"The last thing we want is any delay caused by a lack of workers. Enactment of the Disaster Recovery Workforce Act ensures that will not be a problem. And all the protections for U.S. workers that we wrote into the U.S. Workforce Act last year—from being passed over for jobs to having their wages reduced by competition from foreign workers—will apply to the new disaster recovery workers," said Sablan.

The workers can be recruited from any country on the Department of Homeland Security's approved list for 2018, which includes the Philippines.

Sablan introduced the Disaster Recovery Workforce Act in September, after it became apparent that a lack of construction workers was slowing recovery. Both the Chamber and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands made a case for the extra workforce and supported Sablan's bill.

Federal Emergency Management Agency officials, who broke ground on the first house in their Permanent Housing Construction program in September, noted that a lack of workers was a constraint. FEMA had briefed Sablan six months earlier of their plans to start the program and build brand-new, concrete houses for as many as 500 families. Some families have dropped off the waiting list because of the delay in starting the program.

"Now that a lack of workers should not be a problem, I want to see FEMA speed things up. People need to get out of the tents and into real houses that can withstand any future storms," Sablan said. "The Disaster Recovery Workforce Act makes that possible."

the year 2019. He was also named the quarter of the year employee for Garapan for the months of January to April.

Aside from Rizo, Kinisoulat Tisa and Tahira Mori also received employee of the quarter recognition awards for the Garapan branch.

For the Gualo Rai branch, employee of the quarter recognition awards were given to Beah Sebio for January to April, Norbert Sulapas for May to August, and Emma Lumbad for September to December.

Perfect attendance awards were given to Larigie Achas and Myrna Pagcu from the Gualo Rai branch, while Gerald Bautista and Christopher Loyd Batolino were given the award for the Garapan branch.

Charlie Achas and Gil Gapor also received recognition for their perfect attendance in the maintenance department.

For the service awards, accolades were given to those who have been with employee for three years, five years, 20 years, and 25 years.

For three years of service, Gualo Rai branch's Dana Terlaje, Jesilyn Helgen, and Keyreen Maras were given recognition, while Marcos Darlucio Jr. and Jeanette Keremius were recognized in the Garapan branch.

Bernaly Durano and Ronald Manglona were recognized in the office and maintenance department.

Gualo Rai's Julieta Jones was given the recognition for the five-year service award.

Larigie Achas from the Gualo Rai branch was the sole recipient of the 20-year service recognition award.

Gualo Rai branch general manager Jecelyn R. Asistores was also the sole recipient of the 25-year service recognition award.

According to Ana Olaes, McDonald's Saipan human resources and marketing manager, McDonald's Guam and Saipan credits a large portion of its success to its employees.

"McDonald's wouldn't be where it is today if it wasn't for the employees and their hard work and dedication," she said.

## TYPHOON

From Page 1

reported missing on Thursday, according to disaster management officials.

Phanfone weakened slightly on its way toward the South China Sea

with maximum sustained winds of up to 120 kilometers (75 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 150 kilometers (93 miles) per hour, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

It was expected to leave Philippine territory by Saturday.

## NMC

From Page 1

recipient.

The six other recipient schools are Butte College, Butte-Glenn Community College District, Saint Augustine's University, Gulf Coast State College, Coastal Carolina University, Albany State University, and Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine. The second highest recipient, Butte College, received just a little over \$4.2 million.

The U.S. Department of Education confirmed the award of \$21.9 million to NMC yesterday.

"This U.S. Department of Education grant award is historic for the college," said NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico.

The funding will go to recovery efforts, specifically to build more resilient facilities, since the CNMI is prone to facing devastating storms. Following Yutu, the devastation to the NMC campus included damage to 37 out of its 39 classrooms.

The \$21.9 million is considered the highest amount ever awarded to NMC and is separate from the grant money that NMC also expects to get from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"The funds will go a long way to assist in NMC's recovery efforts and in the college's aim to build modern,

state-of-the-art, and resilient buildings and facilities," said Eliptico.

He said the college also lost hundreds of computers, valuable lab equipment, its bookstore, vehicles, and other equipment were completely destroyed, and the college still holds classes in temporary classrooms built by FEMA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"Despite the overwhelming damage from Super Typhoon Yutu, Northern Marianas College employees have been working extremely hard to ensure that students continue to receive a high quality education and excellent student service. The grant helps to boost morale on campus and sends a strong message to students that a new NMC is indeed coming," Eliptico said.

Eliptico said the college is also pursuing more funding from the Economic Development Administration, the Community Development Block Grant program, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other federal programs to pay for all the buildings it needs to fully recover from Super Typhoon Yutu.

Eliptico would like to express his gratitude to NMC's staff, Board of Regents, the Office of Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), the Office of the Governor, and others who have provided support in the grant application process.

## BIRDS

From Page 1

greenshank, sooty tern, common sandpiper, garganey, lesser sand plover, and grey heron.

Audubon member Frank M. Chapman launched the first Christmas Bird

Count in 1900 as an all-volunteer holiday census of early-winter bird populations, as an alternative to the traditional Christmas "Side Hunt," in which hunters competed to kill as many birds (and mammals) as possible.

The annual Christmas Bird Count is held every year toward the end of December or early January.



## Over 400 dogs are registered

Over 400 dogs have been registered with the Saipan Mayor Office the past two and a half months, making it the highest number of dogs registered in that short amount of time, according to Dog Control Program manager Martin Pangelinan.

"I don't think we were enforcing [the law requiring the registration of dogs] enough. So...I saw that we could do a little better," he said.

Pangelinan took the helm of Dog Control Program manager last Oct. 1. Before that, only about 175 dogs have been officially registered. In as little as two and a half months, over 450 dogs have been registered in the Dog Control Program system.

The program, created in 2001, has a system where a registered dog has the prt's name, owner's name, and cell phone number so in case they do come across a dog and they see that the dog has a tag, it's easy for them to go in their system and see who the owner is, then they give them a call and they're aware that their dog is in the program's possession.

The two main priorities that Pangelinan and his staff have is that keeping villages safe enough so that parents and their children can walk around without having being afraid of a stray dog attacking them and for every dog on island to be registered.

"The guys have been aggressively going throughout the island. We're taking it very slow, but we will get to where we want to be. It could be in a few months or even years," Pangelinan said.

Pangelinan clarified that they do not put down every dog or every stray dog they come across.

"The dogs that have potential for adoption we give them up for adoption. So, it's really up to the manager's discretion," said Pangelinan. "If the dog is ill or on the verge of dying, or has some kind of disease, those are the dogs that we put down."

"We would like to educate the community and make sure that everyone is aware of the public law. If they can just hear us out and...give us a chance to talk, that would be great," he said.

For more information about how you can get your dog registered, contact (670) 234-6208 or visit [www.saipanmayor.net](http://www.saipanmayor.net). (*Justine Nauta*)



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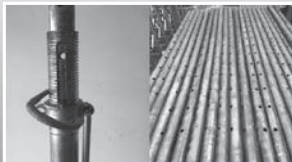
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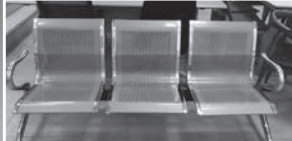
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## Man arrested for allegedly threatening 2 with knife

A 35-year-old man was arrested last week for allegedly asking money from a woman and her boyfriend, then threatening them with a knife outside a store in Chalan Piao.

John Frederick T. Ngeske-

bei was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing the peace. At a hearing last Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$10,000 cash bail on him and

set the preliminary hearing for today, Friday, at 10am.

According to police detective Shannon Dela Cruz in her report, the Department of Public Safety received a call from a woman last Nov. 6 at

10:26pm that a man, later identified as Ngeskebei, threatened her with a sharp object outside the Chalan Piao Supermarket.

Dela Cruz said that, based on her interview with the caller and her boyfriend two days later, the woman had parked her car in front of Chalan Piao Supermarket last Nov. 6 at night to buy some items. The woman saw Ngeskebei standing in front of the store and he appeared to be shouting at someone at the corner of the establishment. The woman became scared so she and her boyfriend, who was on the passenger seat, decided

to leave and put the car on reverse. Ngeskebei, however, walked over to her side of the window, looked inside, and asked her for money. When her boyfriend asked Ngeskebei what he wanted, he got angry and pulled out a knife from his pouch and pointed it at the victims. The woman rolled up the window and locked the car.

The boyfriend got out from the car, confronted the suspect, and told him to throw away the knife. The woman, who was crying in fear, ran into the store, where she called 911 for police's help. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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## Anti-vandalism bill hurdles Senate

A bill that would protect properties from being vandalized now goes to the Governor's Office after senators voted to pass

House Bill 21-2 during a session last Monday on Capital Hill.

Authored by Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-

Saipan), the bill makes it unlawful to vandalize, i.e., any action that would involve the destruction, damage, and/or defacing of any public or private property.

"Vandalism is a serious concern that negatively impacts our islands. Such acts occur not only within private residences, but also in public areas where everybody can easily lay eyes

upon the results of these heinous acts," the bill states. "Such areas include our beaches, parks, and public and private establishments. These acts must be deterred for it destroys the pristine

and tranquil outlook that the CNMI is well known for."

Vandals would have to pay, for the first offense, \$250 to \$1,000 and render 40 hours of community service; for second offense, \$1,000 to \$5,000 and/or up to six months imprisonment, and 80 hours of community service; and for third and any subsequent offenses, \$5,000 to \$10,000, up to one year imprisonment, and 120 hours of community service.

The bill also introduces a penalty of imprisonment of three days to six months for anyone who commits criminal mischief—if he or she intentionally or knowingly causes someone, by deception or threat, to suffer pecuniary or property loss; or discards waste, debris, or trash on someone's land or on any public land not designated as a disposal site.

Tampering with someone's property or messing with public communication, transportation, or water and power supply will also be deemed also criminal mischief.

Guerrero initially called for stricter laws versus vandalism three years ago following the desecration of the Katori Jingu Shrine in October 2016.

Last year, in August, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang reiterated the need for stricter vandalism policies after markers in Beach Road, in recognition of former governor Froilan C. Tenorio, were desecrated. *(Iva Maurin)*



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## GMS PTSA organizes campus cleanup

As part of the Green Meadow School plans for school year 2019-2020, the school's Parents, Teachers, and Students Association organized a campus cleanup last Nov. 23, 2019, and Dec. 21, 2019, to support the health and safety requirement imposed by the Child Care and Development Fund under its Quality Rating Improvement Scale.

Keeping the campus clean gives Green Meadow School the opportunity to reduce waste, and protect the health of its students and staff.

This is why the school's PTSA decided that each of the school's department will host a once-a-month campus cleanup. The Elementary Department kicked off this event last Nov. 23, followed by the Middle School Department last Dec. 21. The parents brought with them cleaning tools as well.

The administration is grateful to the volunteer parents, students, and staff of both departments for their cooperation and commitment. (PR)



Green Meadow School's Parents, Teachers, and Students Association organize a campus cleanup to support the health and safety requirement imposed by the Child Care and Development Fund. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Fee waiver for Jan. 9 NMC info session participants

Individuals who participate in Northern Marianas College's upcoming info session on Jan. 9, 2020, will qualify to have their NMC spring 2020 admission application fee and placement test fees waived. The waiver represents a savings of up to \$75.

The info session will be held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at NMC's Olympio Borja Library located in Building O.

The sessions will cover topics that include financial aid options, the Army Senior Reserve Officer Training Program, admissions, and other topics.

NMC's spring 2020 semester will begin on Jan. 21, 2020. A list of the classes that are offered can be found at [www.marianas.edu](http://www.marianas.edu).

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis in elementary education,

early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), bachelor of science degree in business management (emphasis in accounting); associate of arts degree in business, associate of applied science degrees in business administration (emphasis in accounting, business management, or computer applications), associate of arts in liberal arts (emphasis in education, health and physical education, and social work), associate of science in nursing, natural resources management, associate of applied science in criminal justice, and hospitality management.

For more information about registering for classes for the upcoming spring 2020 semester or to apply for admission, contact the NMC Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit [www.marianas.edu](http://www.marianas.edu). (NMC)

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19D199	CX-5 SIGNATURE 2.5L 5WGN 6ETA AWD	\$8,000	\$27,995
9D083	CX-9 GT 2.5L 5WGN 6EAT AWD	\$15,000	\$29,995
9D196	MX-5 CLUB 2.0L 2DR. 6MT S/TOP	\$9,000	\$29,995

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5HS667	2015 SEDONA	\$6,390	\$9,995
5HS735	2015 EXPEDITION	\$12,735	\$24,995
6HS682	2016 ELANTRA	\$3,845	\$9,995
6HS717	2016 SEDONA	\$4,255	\$12,995
6HS719	2016 SEDONA	\$4,390	\$12,995
7HS779	2017 ACCENT	\$3,458	\$9,995
7HS781	2017 ACCENT	\$4,186	\$9,995
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7HS796	2017 ELANTRA	\$3,845	\$11,995
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Over 50 representatives of 18 local businesses and offices join the Japan Saipan Travel Association in their annual clean-up of downtown Garapan on Dec. 21, 2019, in preparation for more tourists arriving during the holiday season.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Himawari Kenbukan joins the Japan Saipan Travel Association in their annual cleanup of downtown Garapan on Dec. 21, 2019, in preparation for more tourists arriving during the holiday season.

## JSTA leads holiday cleanup in Garapan

In preparation for higher visitor arrivals during the holiday season, the Japan Saipan Travel Association and its tourism partners conducted a cleanup of the main tourist district of Garapan in the Marianas last Dec. 21, 2019.

Fifty-four volunteers from 18 companies and offices joined the cleanup beginning at 6:30am. Volunteers, including many children, spread out and cleaned up along both the roadside and the beach from American Memorial Park to the Carolinian Affairs Office. Joining JSTA in the beautification effort were Japan Consul Kazuhiko Ono and his wife, Masako, along with vice

consul Hirotsugu Morishita and other volunteers from the consulate. The event was also supported by Skymark Airlines Inc. representatives Takashi Kitami and Masaoami Takaragi, the Marianas Visitors Authority, Himawari Kenbukan, Pacific Development Inc., Saipan Sea Ventures, Northern Marianas Dive Operators Association, CMLC Dive Shop, Islanders Net Inc., Japanese Hoshuko/School, MSC Dive, Make Sure Diving, Aqua Resort Club Saipan, Pacific Micronesia Tours, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Big Eye Dive Shop, Aqua Connections, and Saipan Sanko.

The cleanup effort netted over 200 lbs of trash. (MVA)



SAIPAN

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## 2020

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# JOETEN

## 70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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### EDITORIAL

## Protecting privacy: Facebook refuses to provide 'back door' access

U.S. Attorney General William Barr wants Facebook to give law enforcement "back door" access to its messaging services. Facebook officials have made it clear they have no intention of doing so.

That's the way it should be. Protecting user privacy must remain paramount.

Barr sent a letter in October urging Facebook to postpone plans to implement end-to-end encryption of its Instagram, Messenger and WhatsApp messaging services. Barr and his counterparts in the United Kingdom and Australia asked Facebook to create a way for law enforcement to access illegal content on the sites.

Facebook executives responded that creating any sort of back door for law enforcement "would be a gift to criminals, hackers and repressive regimes."

"It is impossible to create such a back door for one purpose and not expect others to try and open it," the executives said in a recently released letter.

That's the problem with creating any type of access to encrypted data, even for the noblest of reasons. Law enforcement officials say it's needed to prosecute criminals such as sex offenders or terrorists, and a warrant would be needed to access private information. But once that back door has been created, there's no way to control who might access it and how they might use the information stored there.

A repressive regime, for instance, might access those messaging services to identify and arrest dissenters, thereby quashing protests. Hackers could target private information of prominent people for a variety of nefarious purposes.

Of equal concern is individual privacy. When the U.S. National Security Agency's massive spying program was revealed in 2013, it turns out the agency was collecting information from Facebook, Google and other sources on U.S. citizens.

The debate over encryption technology has pitted tech companies against government officials for years, most notably in 2015 after the FBI unsuccessfully tried to unlock the iPhone of one of the shooters in the San Bernadino attack. When the NSA also failed to unlock the phone, the FBI asked Apple to create a back door into its iOS operating system. Apple refused, citing security and privacy concerns. Ultimately, the FBI used a third party to open the iPhone.

Facebook rarely gets it right when it comes to privacy issues, but in this instance the company is correct in refusing to unlock the encrypted data on its messaging services.

(c)2019 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



## Open-mindedness

Speaking of Zaldy Dandan, here is a fellow that contributes some of the most rational, effective and helpful bits to the local political and cultural conversation via his weekly op-ed columns. A recent piece he printed about the need for open-mindedness struck me as a valuable addition to that conversation. The *Saipan Tribune's* own Jayvee Vallejera could do a similar excellent job of editorializing but abstains from the practice. A good public conversation is essential for a constitutional republic like ours to thrive. (No, Bertram, we are not a "democracy"). We are fortunate to have enough concerned citizens to stimulate this conversation and expose weaknesses and bolster up strengths of our very own political experiment here in the Northern Marianas Islands. Kudos to all who speak out, even the "cyber rats" (credit to Mr. Stanley Torres) and the "usual suspects" who contribute to the boiling pot to help make it soup instead of dishwater. Those who put their name on those comments deserve more credit, but even those who hide behind an alias contribute. It is just harder to evaluate how trustworthy the alias comments are since they lack provenance.

You can start or continue contributing by responding directly to this op-ed or any other story in the *Saipan Tribune* online. There is a blog response open to you under a bunch of pictures after each article. Feel free to comment at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com) or you can email me.

### Outer Cove follow up

We learn from CNMI Fish and Wildlife's director Manny Pangelinan, who is quoted as saying, "Since the imposition of docking and passenger fees on commercial boat operators in October, the operation of Smiling Cove Marina has been running smoothly." As well it should, considering the operation to tax tourists and boat operators is running at about 15% to 20% efficiency. According to Pangelinan, only some 200 passengers per day are lining up at the inner cove out of 1,200 or so going to Managaha. The rest are loading at other docks and beaches. Some of those are paying but many are not. Imagine the pandemonium, Manny, if you were processing another 1,000 pax per day at the Inner Cove. It would be a cluster bump.

Visitor access to Managaha runs very high, 80% to 90% of all visitors show up at Managaha to see our No. 1 draw sometime during their stay. With total visitor arrivals at current levels, that equates to about 1,200 average per day, according to exit polls. CPA keeps track of those who pay them at the arrival dock on Managaha. Say 700 average per day. The other 500 are going in and out of Managaha without landing at the pier. That 500 per day are being snuck in and out by their tour guides and probably

### SOUR GRAPES By BRUCE BATEMAN Special to the Saipan Tribune



Bruce A. Bateman resides on Saipan with a wife, a son, and an unknown number of boonie dogs. He has owned and operated a number of unusual businesses and most recently worked as the marketing manager for MVA. Bruce likes to read, travel, tinker with bicycles, hike, swim, and play a bit of golf. He is opinionated and writes when the moon is full and the mood strikes.

don't even know it. There are a lot of beaches on and anchorages near the island. Some transfer from water sport to water sport elsewhere in the lagoon and come by via beach Managaha later.

Perhaps a more important question that Mr. Pangelinan could answer would be, "What is happening at the Outer Cove Marina as you scoop up some of the cash generated by your money-making scheme to get the December payment to buy that transient dock from the feds?" Here is a partial answer from one of the small boat owners with a boat currently docked at the Outer Cove: He said, "The latest demands from DLNR/F&W for Outer Cove with threats of eviction if we don't pay three months security deposit plus three months' rent based on marina rent amounts that the government came up with in 1999 when the marina was brand new and had power, water etc. [rates range from \$5.00/foot for a 20-footer to \$20/foot for a 65-footer - BB] We also would have to pay loading fees of \$4 per person if and when we repair the dock and then are allowed to load there. All at our own expenses."

Remember, reader, it is just as hard for the little guy with one small boat to come up with hundreds or a couple of thousand as it is for the big operator to come up with tens of thousands in extorted funds to pay off DLNR so they can buy a new toy.

Here is what another boat owner told me: He wrote, "DLNR has come up with a program to charge the hell out of us for docking our boats in Outer Cove and for us to accept all the liability and do the repairs to the marina docks at our own expense. They are trying to force us into signing leases, which they call permits, where we will be required to pay rent by the foot size of our boat from \$5 to \$20 per foot per month, pay back rent from Oct 1, 2019, to now, and put down a three-month security deposit. Big money. If we don't agree we can leave the marina. If and when we can load passengers the fee

See OPEN-MINDEDNESS on Next Page



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Closing out 2019

Is there an innovative event this year that improved the livelihood of our people or at least the 15,000 employees now earning poverty income in wages and salaries?

Is there a plan to improve this inadequacy? It pertains to the quality of life at home, right? It merits serious and prompt review and a set of planned actions.

That you're now receiving some \$99,500 per year makes it even the more urgent that you now revisit the livelihood of people you represent!

Hope it isn't relegated to the usual "not yet, already" expression of half-cocked politicians who bask at the self-made altar of power. Did Da Boysis forget that we placed them there? Do they know that we could equally deny them the same? May wish to revisit this issue!

Understood its complexity but you seem mute if you have anything up your sleeves to move the needle forward. It's a matter of resolve, organization and commitment. Are there any takers ready to fulfill fiduciary duty?

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

## A joyous blessing for everyone

*Tirow wami yan hafa adai*, fellow citizens of our Commonwealth!

The famous poet, Dr. Maya Angelou, once said that we all have rainbows in our cloud, but more importantly, she declared that we too should strive to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud. As a result, I decided to write this piece to express my genuine and sincere wish for peace, joy, and happiness to all of us in our beautiful Commonwealth. I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone the safest and most joyous Christmas holiday season. Let us all reflect on the many blessings we have received during 2019 and then bring our own version of hope and peace for everyone in this coming year. Key in how we define what this season of Christmas really means, is our resilient and spirited fight to help and comfort those struggling to make ends meet. On that note, it is also crucial that we stay the course in our fight against the evil exploits of corruption in our Commonwealth. These two principles alone suitably define the season of Christmas.

One great thing about our people and our social ideals is our principle of "*Inafa-maloek*" and sense of oneness—for the sake of serving everyone who touch our lives. In other words, no matter the struggle, we always find ways to celebrate each others' friendship and companionship.

Indeed, we have grown as a people and toughed out many trepidations throughout our history. We even endured Spanish colonization as well as German and Japanese occupations, the horridness of World War II, and still, we managed to remain stout as a people. Thankfully, the Americanization we've so far experienced has been favorable—although not all that perfect, we are fortunate nonetheless. So, I beseech all of us to join hands and continue to work cohesively in advancing our Commonwealth, especially in this new year. Fundamentally, let us develop solutions to assist and help all of our people, particularly the underserved. I say this, because if we defeat the evils of corruption and focus more attention and devotion towards helping our people, more opportunities would emerge—all for the sake of all people. This is also why I wanted to write this piece—to remind us all that we essentially could use this Christmas season to be more giving and less "taking."

So, from my family and I, to you and yours, we wish you only the best this coming year. Here's to wishing everyone the happiest, safest, and most prosperous New Year. Let's ring in 2020 to hopefully fill everyone of our Commonwealth citizens with boundless health and comfort.

*Biba CNMI and Biba Taotao tano.*

**Dr. Lawrence Fejeran Camacho**

Dean, Enrollment Management and Student Success  
Dean of Student, University of Guam

**Helping**

In most cities across the country, small businesses have gathered with a sense of purpose to help one another improve services they provide the community on a daily basis. The idea has worked superbly well.

It is shown in improved services throughout small towns and cities. This too can be done here with a sense of fellowship and generosity. The point in this undertaking is to help your fellow businessman improve services. Improvements generate more business meeting community needs. Satisfaction is had on both sides.

It also cements greater relationship between small businesses and folks around town. It grants opportunities for real fellowship with one and all. It fosters trust in daily interactions. It makes for closer working relationship among village members and service providers.

**Caveat**

At a recent interview with FN's Judge Jeanine Pirro, Vice President Mike Pence related plans to cut government-provided healthcare in 2020. It's something that would affect us too. Have we done our homework how to navigate serious funding cut or "not yet, already?"

**What's the charge?**

Trump has been accused of everything in the books that included collusion, bribery, and extortion, among others. He is free of any criminal act versus pertinent constitutional provision or on his own.

Anti-Trumpers must put on the big boys' pants and deal with baseless personal opinions. A personal view isn't a crime nor have I seen any that has risen to the level of serious federal crime. Finally, there's due process rights the accused must receive forthwith.

**Chance?**

I was hoping that the reported 15,000 employees earning poverty income wages and salaries would have seen some appreciable increase in their income. None! It perpetuates hardship at home. Is this your considered or educated answer?

Get past your ego and buckle down to resolving the issue once and for all. It's about the quality of life of people you represent, isn't it? No more shortsighted offer, please!

Would something for the better happen in 2020 or would it be another round of redundancy in nothing burger? Are Da Boysis ready to tango with real substantive issues or is this a bit too hard

## OPEN-MINDEDNESS

*From Page 12*

will be \$4 each person in Outer Cove. [A check in Guam finds the commercial rate for Agat and Agana marinas are only a max of \$9/ft and include power, water, and full facilities.—doesn't sound like a fair or reasonable price to me—BB].

So what about it, director? Does that sound like a fair deal to you?

**Why villas**

I was pleased to see the other day in the Saipan Tribune that Imperial Pacific had completed and put into service some of its fancy villas beachside at their new resort in Garapan. That is an important addition to Saipan's inventory of tourism attractions. I'm looking forward to see them open up the rest of those villas and hope they can find enough people in the labor pool to complete them soon.

Why would it be important for Saipan to have true 5-star world-class accommodations when you or I couldn't afford to stay there if our lives depended on it? Because the VIPs who do stay there are the backbone of all casino operations all over the world. Only the biggest of the whales are given those luxurious villa suites and often for "free" by putting up enough money at the VIP cage to show they have the means and the intent to gamble large sums.

I say it is the mainstay of casinos because the vast majority of money that rolls in to casinos comes from. I used to think that all the flashing lights and bonging noises and the many, many gaming tables and slot machines and roulette wheels out in those huge main gaming lobbies was where the money came from to

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.*

to chew? So do we follow your out of sync version of que sera?

**Policy**

It is said that policy improves the livelihood of folks in the villages. Is this the case here or is it one of disorientation that feeds upon piles of other disorientation? What's the culprit that such is the case?

Indeed, staying focus isn't a forte among policymakers. Otherwise, issues would have been resolved and real results the consequence of confidence in problem solving. Such is furthest from the conduct of legislative disposition.

No worries! We hear the lack of clarity of understanding in what you end up mumbling in your televised sessions. Articulation needs a lot of improvement!

**Action?**

When more than half of employees are literally struggling with poverty income isn't this a reason to reset buttons so you could do something positively decisive to improve family income? Or is it easier stopping under the awning of your obvious disorientation?

It's about the quality of life you took an oath to improve for our people in no uncertain terms. It requires leadership and we are watching if you're up to the task.

**Generosity**

It is known in Chamorro as *ina'ayuda* or helping. It's a natural aspect of the local culture—helping your fellow man—especially those most in need. This is accompanied by what's known as "*inana'e*"—sharing.

Perhaps this was founded on our hailing from small islands where sharing allows one and all to live peacefully together. It builds confidence among community members who can rely on one another in both good and difficult times.

build that 20-story casino resort in the first place. Wrong. That part of a casino is called "the show" and is the "comfort food" of the casino industry. Think out the scale of it for a moment and you'll see what I mean. It takes thousands of guys like you or me betting our hamburger money to equal just one guy betting half a million per hand.

Anyway, those guys that are courted and comped (given freebies) are given the finest accommodations and pretty much whatever luxuries they want in order to get them to and keep them at those high-stakes VIP tables. You and I don't usually see guys like that. They gamble in ultra-fancy private VIP rooms or at exclusive high-stakes baccarat tables or even sometimes the house brings the dealer and the game to the VIP.

Once the hotel portion of that property opens up, Saipan will have something that we have never had, true 5-star accommodations. That will spur other hoteliers to up their game and build competitive facilities instead of just putting another coat of paint on the same 40-year-old hotel and calling it good. Villas are the start of a win-win situation for Saipan and for CNMI tourism. Question is, will USCIS, DHS, and USCBP allow enough construction laborers here to complete this project and the five other ongoing but not complete big scale developments on Saipan right now? Or will they keep strangling the CNMI by strangling our labor supply? Fly on the wall.

Thanks for reading Sour Grapes!






■■■

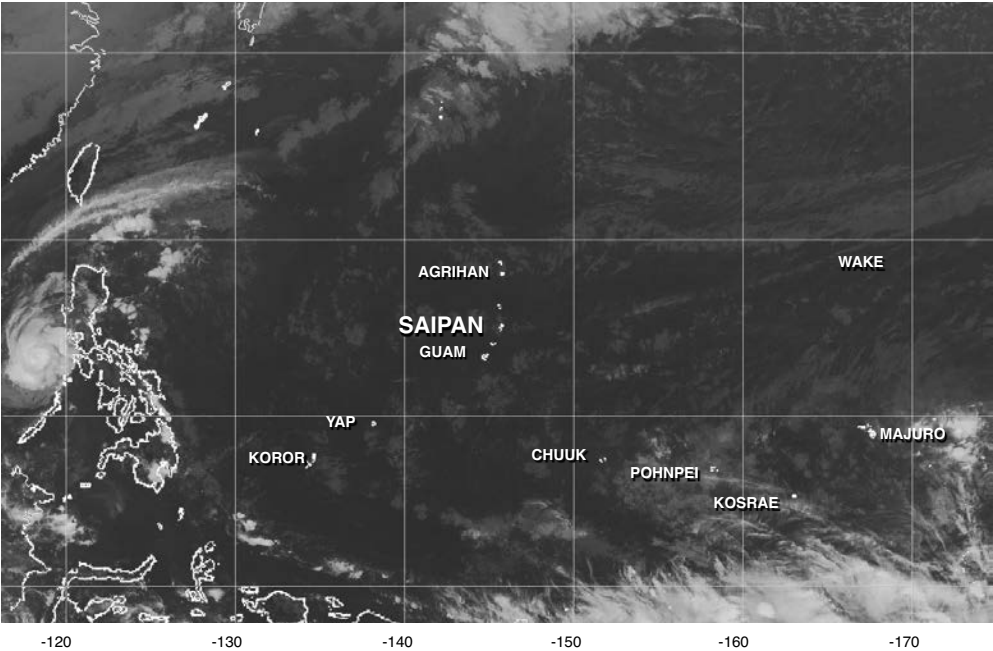
*"Democracy is two wolves and a sheep deciding what to have for dinner."*

—Attributed to Benjamin Franklin  
Worth repeating



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.	
88°	77°	88°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



**PICTURE TIME: 7:12 AM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2019**  
WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC BETWEEN EQUATOR AND 25N FROM 130E TO 180.

Guam weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas this morning. Satellite shows similar patches of clouds stretching all the way to 160E and even beyond. The VAD wind profile indicates east winds of 14 to 22 knots through the lowest 8 thousand feet of the air. The buoys reveal combined seas of 6 to 8 feet, composed of trade-wind swells and wind waves, all from just north of east.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an up-dated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA ▼ ▲ °F		
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	84° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE ▼ ▲ °F		
Auckland	Windy	68° / 57°
Beijing	Sunny	37° / 19°
Hong Kong	Showers	68° / 61°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	82° / 73°
London	Cloudy	48° / 45°
Los Angeles	Sunny	65° / 45°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	79° / 73°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	90° / 61°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	75° / 60°
New York	Cloudy	53° / 42°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	55° / 45°
Paris	Showers	52° / 43°
Busan	Sunny	48° / 36°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	57° / 39°
Salem	Showers	67° / 55°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	54° / 42°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	43° / 32°
Tokyo	Sunny	50° / 36°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	61° / 38°



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
2:21 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.67
9:27 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.73
2:55 PM	LOW TIDE	1.03
7:32 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.70

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:40 AM	5:54 PM
Saturday	6:41 AM	5:55 PM
Sunday	6:41 AM	5:55 PM
Monday	6:42 AM	5:56 PM
Tuesday	6:42 AM	5:56 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:20 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	-	8:13 AM	7:45 PM
Sunday	-	9:02 AM	8:39 PM
Monday	-	9:46 AM	9:30 PM
Tuesday	-	10:28 AM	10:19 PM

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235-3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website: [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 2, 2019							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA105	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	UA104	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily	SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
				SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily	OZ6233	8:00am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6
OZ626	2:10am	6:05am	1	OZ623	8:55am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:25am	3, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 4, 5, 6	TW309	11:10am	4:25pm	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily	OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ6243	3:20pm	7:10pm	2, 4, 6	TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily
OZ624	3:50pm	7:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
TW310	5:25pm	10:15pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	4, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN	UA184/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA156/183	6:20pm	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via GUM	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR	OZ704/6233	11:45pm	1:20pm+1	1, 3, 5 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	2:30pm+1	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/6233	12:35am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ746/623	12:35am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:40am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ6243/9661	3:20pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ624/9661	3:50pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
				UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily

1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily





### MVA JOINS TINIAN CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The Marianas Visitors Authority's float features a nativity scene, snowmen, and a Christmas tree in the Christmas parade held on Dec. 20, 2019, on the island of Tinian.

MVA



Local children enjoy the Marianas Visitors Authority and Department of Commerce's giant elf at the Christmas Booth Lighting held on Dec. 17, 2019, at the Natibu Park on Tinian.

MVA

## Tomorrow is final night of Christmas in the Marianas

Christmas in the Marianas will celebrate its final night with a Mochitsuki Festival on Saturday, Dec. 28, at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan. The Mochitsuki Festival is an annual celebration in Japan marked by the pounding of "mochi" (glutinous rice) in preparation for the new year.

The festivities kick off at 5:30pm at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan with a traditional Japanese dance by the Saipan Awaodori Team and the official opening of the festival at 6pm. Other entertainment will be Holiday Rockin' in American Sign Language at 6:30pm, Hopwood Middle School Glee Club at 7pm, Marianas High School Rhythm N' Harmony at 7:30pm, more "mochi" pounding at 8pm, Wolfgang Christian School at 8:30pm, Pacific Flowers dance group at 9pm, and Refaluwasch Warriors dance group at 9:30pm.

Christmas in the Marianas is celebrated every Saturday in December and is organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority, PDM Promoters, Pacific Development Inc. and other travel partners.

"It has really been a phenomenal Christmas in the Marianas celebration this year. ... You can just feel the excitement and holiday spirit every night at Paseo de Marianas!" said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "The MVA is so pleased to work with our many sponsors and supporters to make this annual signature event possible for visitors and our residents every year, and we invite everyone to come out for our final night of Christmas in the Marianas this Saturday."

Last Saturday, Dec. 21, Christmas in the Marianas featured Skymark Night, celebrating the recent commencement of direct, daily service

by Skymark Airlines Inc. between Tokyo and Saipan. Three lucky individuals won roundtrip tickets for two. Also, winners of the Skymark Night Plane Contest were awarded for their plane sculptures. Winning first place and \$500 from among 17 entries was Mario K. Espeleta, followed by Vladimir S. Palma winning \$300 in second place, and Kenjirho Matias winning \$200 cash in third place. Winners also received MVA giveaways.

Participating food and drink vendors are Kinpachi, Furusato, Lyn's BBQ and Java Joe's. The event is sponsored by Island Image & Motion, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kensington hotel Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, and Chamolinian Cultural Village Inc. Additional support is provided by Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Department of Public Lands, Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services, Lollipop's, Hard Rock Café Saipan, Furusato, Century Tours/iShop, and McDonald's Saipan.

COTA shuttle service is provided from American Memorial Park parking lot to Paseo de Marianas beginning at 5pm (last shuttle at 9:30pm) and from Paseo de Marianas crosswalk across from Fiesta Resort & Spa to American Memorial Park beginning at 5:10pm (last shuttle at 9:40pm) every 15 minutes.

For more information, contact lead event coordinator and MVA Community Projects Specialist Ray Villagomez at rvillagomez@mymarianas.com or 1.670.664.3200/1, or for information on the Skymark Night Plane Contest, contact info@mymarianas.com. (MVA)

**Kanoa Resort**  
Saipan

**NYE**  
**2020**

**DECEMBER 31st**  
**THE PARTY BEGINS @ BAREFOOT BAR**

**6PM TO CLOSE**

<b>\$65/ADULTS</b>	<b>\$25/KIDS (4-11)</b>
STEAK/LOBSTER DINNER	COCKTAIL BUFFET FROM 9PM
CULTURAL ISLAND SHOW	LONG LIFE NOODLES
CLOSE UP MAGIC	SPARKLING WINE TOAST
LIVE MUSIC	MIDNIGHT LIVE FIRE SHOW

**9PM TO CLOSE**

<b>\$25/ADULTS</b>	<b>\$15/KIDS (4-11)</b>
COCKTAIL BUFFET	LIVE MUSIC
CLOSE UP MAGIC	SPARKLING WINE TOAST
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# Business

## Chinese chef brings expertise to Saipan

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

With more than 20 years of cooking experience, it's not a stretch to say that executive chef Peng Hui Xiang brings excellence and expertise to Fisherman's Wharf Restaurant in Garapan.

A graduate of Guangzhou Provincial Tourism School, the 40-year-old father of two has had stints in China, Taiwan, Singapore, and Hong Kong before coming to the CNMI five years ago.

Prior to working for Fisherman's Wharf, Xiang also

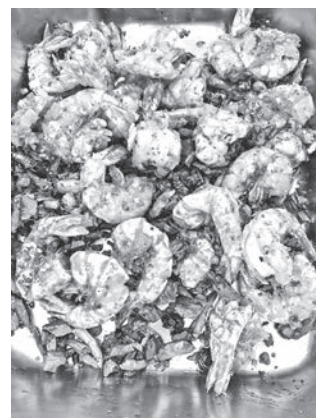
worked in the kitchens of Imperial Pacific Resort, Kensington Hotel, and Tony Seafood.

At Fisherman's Wharf, he leads a team of five cooks responsible for whipping up the restaurant's daily lunch buffets, the menu of which changes daily. What doesn't change is the quality and authenticity of the food. According to Xiang, they make sure that what they cook are the type of Cantonese dishes passed on for generations in their home province of Guangdong.

Aside from their daily eat-all-you-can fare, Fisherman's Wharf also has *ala carte* offerings for lunch and dinner—all cooked in a show kitchen where customers can easily see how their orders are ex-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS  
Fisherman's Wharf Restaurant executive chef Peng Hui Xiang boasts of over 20 years of culinary experience.



Executive chef Peng Hui Xiang's spicy shrimp.

pertly made.

Xiang said he and his team are quick to use fresh local ingredients. He himself goes out to buy freshly caught seafood at the many fish stands that dot Beach Road. They also have a good relationship with the island's farmers who supplies them with their produce every day.

So far, he has enjoyed continuing his culinary career on Saipan, as it doesn't only provide the ease of island living and cooking for different customers, but the tropical setting is also populated with warm people with some of the best hospitality

in the world.

Just some of the bestsellers at the daily lunch buffet include chili tofu, yellow fin soup, spicy shrimp, fish with eggplant, and the all-time favorite beef and broccoli. Depending on the day, they also offer anything from seafood to chicken, beef, dumplings, hot-pot, mapo tofu, fried rice, and more. The buffet lunch comes with a complimentary iced tea and orange juice plus desserts like fresh fruits.

For a limited time, the lunch buffet at Fisherman's Wharf is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. With 11-12 dishes, it promises to have the most bang for your buck, Xiang assured.

For the holidays, Fisherman's Wharf is also offering Peking duck and roast chicken Cantonese style.

Fisherman's Wharf is located in the tourist district of Garapan. It's open from 10:30am to 2pm and 5:30pm to 10pm daily.

The restaurant comfortably sits 100 but can accommodate up 180 diners. It is also open for private parties and corporate functions.

**For more information and reservations, call 285-6134.**



### Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Labor

Office of the Secretary  
1356 Mednilla Avenue | Capitol Hill | P.O. Box 10007 | Saipan, MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 664-3196 | Fax: (670) 664-3197



## NOTICE TO EMPLOYERS

In accordance with Employment Rules and Regulations of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC), the CNMI Department of Labor (CNMI DOL) mandates compliance of the following for all eligible private sector employers. Failure or refusal to comply is cause for the CNMI DOL to issue a Notice of Violation to the employer which may result in fines and other sanctions following a due process hearing in the Administrative Hearing Office.

### 1. Post Job Vacancy Announcement on CNMI DOL website

An employer who intends to employ a foreign national worker, transitional worker, or nonimmigrant alien on a full-time basis (under any new employment arrangement, any renewal of any existing employment arrangement, or any transfer) must post a Job Vacancy Announcement (JVA) on the CNMI DOL website at [www.marianaslabor.net](http://www.marianaslabor.net). NMIAC § 80-20.1-225(a). No waiver is available for the job vacancy announcement requirement. NMIAC § 80-20.1-225(e).

### 2. Submit Total Workforce Listing

Each business employer shall report quarterly, as of the last day of the calendar quarter, the number of employees, job classification, and the hourly wage of employees for whom wages were paid during the quarter. NMIAC § 80-20.1-505(b) (emphasis added). The Department requires employers to present this information in a document called "Total Workforce Listing," via email: [documents@marianaslabor.net](mailto:documents@marianaslabor.net) (Excel format).

The Total Workforce Listing is due each quarter:

1st Quarter (January - March).....	due on April 30
2nd Quarter (April - June).....	due on July 31
3rd Quarter (July - September).....	due on October 31
4th Quarter (October - December).....	due on January 31

**Attention: The total Workforce Listing for the 4th Quarter 2019 is due on or before January 31, 2020. Online submissions may be emailed to [documents@marianaslabor.net](mailto:documents@marianaslabor.net) (in excel format) or delivered to the DOL Administrative Services Office, Building # 1356, Capitol Hill. Online submission are preferable.**

### 3. Adhere to Workforce Participation Minimum Percentage requirement

Any employer, unless exempt, who employs workers on a full-time basis must certify that 30% or more of its full-time employees are U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents, and/or CNMI permanent residents. 3 CMC § 4525 and NMIAC § 80-20.1-210(c)(3). Failure to maintain a minimum percentage of 30% will result in a Notice of Violation filed against the employer.

### 4. Submit new or updated Workforce Plan

All employers who employ nonimmigrant alien workers, unless exempt, must submit a new or updated Workforce Plan every twelve months. NMIAC § 80-20.1-510(c). A workforce plan shall identify specific positions currently occupied by a foreign national worker and timetable for accomplishing the replacement of the foreign national worker with qualified U.S. citizens, CNMI permanent residents, and U.S. permanent residents until the workforce participation objective is met. NMIAC § 80-20.1-510(b). The Workforce Plan form is available on the CNMI DOL website under Forms & Publications at [www.marianaslabor.net](http://www.marianaslabor.net).

## Wildfires cause turmoil in CA property insurance market

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Kent Michitsch seemed to be running out of traditional options to insure the home he's lived in for more than 30 years northeast of San Diego as California's massive property insurance market reels from three consecutive years of destructive wildfires.

Michitsch, 57, has received three non-renewal notices in three years, and says he feared getting a fourth one when his homeowners' policy comes up for renewal the middle of next year if it wasn't for California lawmakers' recent intervention in the market.

"It's constant worry and frustration. You know you're covered now, but I might have to look for a new policy next year yet again," Michitsch says he's never made a claim on his insurance and never had fire damage.

Thousands of homeowners like Michitsch have lost their insurance policies in the last few years as insurers pull out of areas that are at risk of fire damage or stop insuring homes altogether. They've been forced to scramble to find coverage from regular insurance providers or to turn as a last resort to a government sanctioned plan that at the moment only provides fire coverage.

State Farm, the largest insurer in the state, Allstate and other insurers declined to renew roughly 350,000 policies in areas at high risk for wildfires since 2015 the California Department of Insurance said back in August, and the department has gotten "record numbers" of requests this year from insurers to increase the rates they charge property owners. The data also show 33,000 policies were not renewed by insurers in zip codes affected by the major wildfires.

While the insurance industry says the California property insurance market is resilient, state lawmakers and officials have had to scramble to keep the market from grinding to a halt from the unexpected additional risk.

The California Legislature passed a law earlier this year giving the Department of Insurance emergency powers to keep policies in effect for those in fire-prone areas. This month California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara put a one-year moratorium on non-renewals, in hopes that lawmakers, insurance companies and other stakeholders can reach a more substantial solution for the roughly 1 million homeowners in zip codes adjacent to previous wildfires.



# Nation

## Trump lashes out as impeachment trial stuck in limbo

**PALM BEACH, Fla.** (AP)—President Donald Trump lashed out Tuesday as his Senate impeachment trial remains at an impasse, with Republican and Democratic leaders at odds over its format and whether witnesses should be called.

Speaking at his private club in Palm Beach, Florida, after a teleconference call with troops stationed across the globe, Trump singled out Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who is indefinitely holding up sending the articles of impeachment the House passed last week to the Republican-controlled Senate.

"She hates the Republican Party. She hates all of the people that voted for me and the Republican Party," Trump

charged on Christmas Eve. "She's doing a tremendous disservice to the country."

Trump has long seen a Senate trial, where he is almost certain to be acquitted, as an opportunity for vindication after he became the third president in the nation's history to be impeached by the House.

"We have the majority and now they want McConnell to do wonderful things for them," Trump complained of Democrats, adding that he will leave it to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to do whatever he thinks best.

"He's very smart guy, a very good guy, a very fair guy. But they treated us very unfairly. And now they

want fairness in the Senate," he said.

Pelosi has said she is waiting until she receives more clarity from McConnell about what a trial will look like. He has said he has not ruled out calling witnesses, but has also indicated that he is in no hurry to seek new testimony either. Meanwhile the Senate's top Democrat, Chuck Schumer of New York, has countered that any trial with-

out witnesses would be "Kafkaesque" and a "sham."

"Let's put it like this: If there are no documents and no witnesses, it will be very hard to come to an agreement," Trump



Trump

Schumer told The Associated Press on Monday. Schumer is demanding witnesses who refused to appear during House committee

hearings, including acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney and former national security adviser John Bolton.

McConnell, who has all but promised a swift acquittal of the president, has resisted making any guarantees, and has cautioned Trump against seeking the testimony of witnesses for fear of

prolonging the trial. Instead, McConnell appears to have secured Republican support for his plans to impose a framework drawn from the 1999 impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton.

"We haven't ruled out witnesses," McConnell said Monday in an interview with "Fox and Friends." "We've said let's handle this case just like we did with President Clinton. Fair is fair."

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### **Police: 3 dead in apparent murder-suicide; 4 children safe**

**LAKELAND, Fla.** (AP)—Three adults were killed in an apparent murder-suicide on Christmas Eve while four young children were inside the home, authorities in Florida said. The children were safely removed from the home after the shooting Tuesday night, Lakeland Police Capt. Ed Cain told reporters. The three dead adults all suffered gunshot wounds. Investigators said Leighton Josephs, 30, fired the shots at a man and woman, who weren't identified, inside the home, and then killed himself. Josephs knew the man and woman, although investigators didn't describe how. All four of the children are believed to be younger than 10 years old, Cain said. "It's a very tragic situation on Christmas Eve that's going to impact a lot of families," Cain said.

#### **Man kills woman with knife in front of children, wounds teen**

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—A man killed a woman in north Philadelphia on Wednesday, repeatedly stabbing her and even chasing her outside the home at one point in an attack that also critically injured a teenager and was witnessed by other children, police said. The 35-year-old woman was found with stab wounds to her stomach and chest after the attack shortly before 3:30 a.m. Wednesday in the Fern Rock neighborhood, police said. She was pronounced dead minutes later at Albert Einstein Medical Center. A 14-year-old boy found inside the home with a stab wound

to his right thigh was taken by police to the hospital, where he was listed in critical condition, police said. WPVI-TV reported, citing police, that six children ranging in age from 8 to 16 were in the home at the time of the Christmas morning attack. Chief Inspector Scott Small told the station there were signs of a violent fight inside, with large amounts of blood, broken glass and overturned furniture.

#### **New wife, 26, charged with exploiting husband, 77, for money**

**TAMPA, Fla.** (AP)—A newly married 26-year-old woman has been arrested on charges alleging she tried to cash almost \$1 million in checks from her 77-year-old husband's account. Lin Helena Halfon was arrested earlier this month at Tampa International Airport. She is facing charges of money laundering, organized fraud and exploitation of an elderly person. During her first court appearance, a judge set her bail at \$1 million. The Tampa Bay Times reported that when her husband, Tampa businessman Richard Rappaport, was notified by investigators about what his wife was doing, he said wanted to give his wife the benefit of the doubt, according to a warrant affidavit. He said he didn't want her to be deported to her native Israel. An Amscot employee in Tampa refused to cash the checks. Eventually, two checks worth about \$666,000 were cashed by an Orlando business. Asked later if he felt he was the victim of fraud and fraud, Rappaport told investigators, "yes," according to the arrest warrant.

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# Asia

## Protests continue in India against new citizenship law

**GAUHATI, India** (AP)—More than a thousand students, artists and writers protested in India’s capital and northeastern Assam state on Wednesday against a new citizenship law introduced by the Hindu nationalist-led government that excludes Muslims.

In Gauhati, Assam’s capital, protesters sang patriotic songs urging unity, painted on canvases and created a sculpture. One of the paintings showed independence leader Mohandas Gandhi stabbed in the heart, while others depicted protests with blood in the streets.

The protest was organized by the All Assam Students’ Union, the Gauhati Artists Guild and the Saru Kala Parishad, an artists’ organization.

In New Delhi, writer and activist Arundhati Roy joined protesters and asked people to guard against any oppression by security forces.

“We will have to protect each other. And now, when they (government forces) are entering people’s homes, especially in Muslim neighborhoods, we must patrol those

areas and put our bodies on the line,” Roy said.

Her book “The God of Small Things” won the Booker Prize in 1997.

Twenty-three people have been killed nationwide since the citizenship law was passed two weeks ago. Massive protests erupted across the country, with Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Assam states the worst hit.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has defended the law, calling it a humanitarian gesture for refugees in India.

The law allows Hindus, Christians and other religious minorities who are in India illegally to become citizens if they can show they were persecuted because of their religion in Muslim-majority Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan. It does not apply to Muslims.

Fahad, a student leader who uses only one name, told protesters in New Delhi that the country’s secular constitution is being threatened.

“The principles of the constitution have been shaken by this

government,” he said. “And when the soul of the constitution is targeted by the government, then certainly India has changed under this regime.”

The protests follow a contentious registration process in Assam meant to weed out foreigners living in the country illegally.

Nearly 2 million people, about half Hindu and half Muslim, were excluded from a new official list of citizens—called the National Register of Citizens—and have been asked to prove their citizenship or else be considered foreign.

## Wildfire-ravaged areas of Australia get holiday relief

**PERTH, Australia** (AP)—Areas of Australia that have been ravaged by deadly wildfires experienced temporary relief on Wednesday, but oppressive conditions are expected to return this weekend.

About 5 million hectares (12.35 million acres) of land have burned nationwide over the past few months, with nine people killed and more than 950 homes destroyed. New South Wales, the country’s most populous state, has received the brunt of the damage, with around 850 homes razed in the state.

Parts of New South Wales, including Sydney, experienced cool and damp conditions on Christmas Day, but more than 70 fires continued to burn across the state. New South Wales has been in a seven-day state of emergency, which was to expire on Wednesday night.

About 2,000 firefighters and 400 firetrucks battled the blazes in more favorable conditions, but high temperatures are set to return. Sydney is forecast to hit 31 degrees Celsius (88 Fahrenheit) on Sunday, while the city’s western suburbs could reach 41 C (106 F).

Fire danger ratings remained very high in northwestern New South Wales, and were between high and moderate for the rest of the state.

In his annual Christmas message, Prime Minister Scott Morrison paid tribute to the families of the two firefighters—Geoffrey Keaton, 32, and Andrew O’Dwyer, 36—who died last week battling blazes southwest of Sydney.

The wildfire crisis forced Morrison to cut short his much-criticized family vacation in Hawaii. He returned to Australia on Saturday night.

“To Andrew and Geoffrey’s parents, we know this is going to be a tough Christmas for you, first one without both those two amazing men,” he said.

“I want to thank all those who serve our nation, serving as volunteers fighting those fires as we speak,” Morrison added.

## Time and cost of relocation of US base in Okinawa to double

**TOKYO** (AP)—The relocation of a U.S. Marine Corps base to a less-crowded area of the southern Japanese island of Okinawa will take more than twice as much money and time as previously estimated because of the need to stabilize the reclaimed land it will be built on, Japan’s government said Wednesday.

The Defense Ministry said the relocation of U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma from densely populated Ginowan to Henoko on Okinawa’s eastern coast will cost 930 billion yen (\$8.5 billion) and take 12 years, pushing its completion into the 2030s. That adds more than a decade to the plan, which has already been delayed by more than 20 years because of local opposition and other reasons.

Under an earlier plan agreed to by Tokyo and Washington in 2013, construction was to cost about 350 billion yen (\$3.2 billion) and take five years, with completion expected in about 2022.

Most of the additional cost and time is required to stabilize and strengthen reclaimed land off the coast of Henoko that will be used for runways, the ministry said. It presented its new estimate to a panel of Japanese experts discussing the relocation plans.

Experts have found parts of the sea bottom at the planned reclamation site to be “as soft as mayonnaise” and needing to be reinforced.

Many Okinawans, including Gov. Denny Tamaki, oppose the relocation, saying the base should be entirely removed from the island. The heavy U.S. military presence

on Okinawa has been a source of a long-running conflict between the island and Washington and Tokyo.

Japan’s central government forcibly began reclamation work in December 2018 despite repeated protests by Okinawa.


Tamaki is expected to also reject a central government application for a local government permit to carry out additional land reinforcement, which is likely to reignite tension and further delay the relocation.

Okinawa’s vice governor, Kichiro Jahana, told reporters that “The construction should be stopped immediately. It’s a good opportunity to rethink the plan, taking into consideration a nationwide debate.”

About half of the 50,000 American troops in Japan are stationed in Okinawa. The 30 U.S. installations on the island account for more than 70% of the area used by the U.S. military in Japan, leading Okinawa to protest that it is shouldering more than its share of the burden.

Opponents also say the relocation plan should be scrapped for environmental reasons because the site is a habitat for dugongs and corals.

U.S. President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reaffirmed their commitment to pursue the Henoko plan in 2017, calling it the only solution that avoids continued use of Futenma. The plan was developed after the 1995 rape of a schoolgirl, in which three U.S. servicemen were convicted, reigniting simmering Okinawan opposition to the U.S. bases.



**TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
“Car Rental Concessions”

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-002-20**

**for**  
**CPA Concession No. CRT-2020-01**  
**CPA Concession No. CRT-2020-02**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA” or “Authority”) is soliciting proposals for the award of two (2) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Tinian International Airport (“Car Rental Concessions”). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Tinian International Airport for a period of two years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-002-20 is **December 20, 2019**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:30 p.m. on January 31, 2020**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$200.00 (cashier’s checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO

Executive Director



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**  
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
**AIRPORT FIRE STATION ROLL UP DOOR REPLACEMENT**  
**PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-20**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting for sealed proposals for procurement, delivery and installation of eight (8) aluminum brand new roll up doors for the bays located at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The work shall include all design, materials, labor and equipment necessary to achieve the finished products, along with testing and commissioning in compliance with the items in the scope of work.

The Scope of Work (SOW) may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, may be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror’s proposal package.

A site visit may be requested by each proposer and will be coordinated with the CPA’s Airport Fire Chief, Frederick Pangelinan at telephone number 670-288-0091.

Questions shall be submitted in writing to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office or via email at [wprater@cpa.gov.mp](mailto:wprater@cpa.gov.mp) or [cpa.engr@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.engr@pticom.com) by no later than 5:00 p.m., **Monday, January 13, 2020**. All responses to questions or requests for information will be provided to all proposers who have picked up a proposal package.

Proposers shall submit one original and four (4) copies of the proposals, sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: “*Proposal for Procurement, Delivery and Installation of Eight Roll Up Doors for Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, CPA-SA-001-20*”. Proposals must be submitted no later than **5:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2020**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

**PROPOSERS SHALL PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO ALL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS DETAILED IN THE SCOPE OF WORK, AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AS DETAILED ABOVE.**

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO

Executive Director

Date: December 17, 2019



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS**  
**FOR**  
**CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
**COMMUTER TERMINAL ACCESS ROAD PAVING**  
**PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-007-18**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Construction Management Services for the Commuter Terminal Access Road Paving Project at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA’s Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA’s Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined in the RFQ package.

Questions regarding this RFQ shall be addressed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager and delivered to the CPA Executive Director’s office, faxed to (670) 234-5962, or emailed to [cpa.engr@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.engr@pticom.com) and [wprater@cpa.gov.mp](mailto:wprater@cpa.gov.mp) by no later than **Friday, December 27, 2019, 5:00 p.m., local time**.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications. Qualification statements shall be submitted by no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2020 (CHST)**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:

Mr. Christopher S. Tenorio  
Executive Director  
Commonwealth Ports Authority  
P.O. Box 501055  
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO

Executive Director

Date: December 10, 2019



World

Pope offers hope against darkness in Christmas Day message

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis offered a Christmas message of hope Wednesday against darkness that cloaks conflicts and relationships in large parts of the world from the Middle East to the Americas to Africa.

The pope told tens of thousands of tourists, pilgrims and Romans gathered in St. Peter’s Square for the annual Christmas Day mes-

sage that “the light of Christ is greater” than the darkness “in human hearts” and “in economic, geopolitical and ecological conflicts.”

The traditional “Urbi et Orbi” (“to the city and to the world”) Christmas message has become an occasion for popes to address suffering in the world and press for solutions. Francis was flanked by Cardinal Renato Raffaele Martino, president of the papal council for migrants, and Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the pope’s official almsgiver.

The pope cited the Syrian people “who still see no end to the hostilities that have rent their country over the last decade” as well as Israel, where Jesus “was born as the savior of mankind and where so many people -- struggling but not discouraged -- still await

a time of peace, security and prosperity.”

Francis also called for an easing of the crisis in Lebanon, social tensions in Iraq and “a grave humanitarian crisis” in Yemen.

He noted that a number of countries in the Americas “are experiencing a time of social and political upheaval,” citing “the beloved Venezuelan people, long tried by their political

and social tensions.”

The pope also noted migrants forced by injustice “to emigrate in the hope of a secure life.” Instead of finding acceptance, Francis said injustice continues along their journey, where they often face abuse, enslavement and torture in “inhumane detention camps” and death during dangerous sea and desert crossings.

And once migrants arrive in

“places where they might have hoped for a dignified life” ... they “instead find themselves before walls of indifference,” he said.

The pope offered prayers of hope for the people of Africa, including those in Congo “torn by continuing conflicts” and the people of Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria, where people have been “persecuted for their religious faith.”

WORLD BRIEFS

Algeria buries military chief, de facto ruler amid protests

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)—Algeria held an elaborate military funeral Wednesday for the general who was the gas-rich country’s de facto ruler amid political turmoil throughout this year. Big crowds packed the route of the funeral cortege Wednesday to pay homage to Gen. Ahmed Gaid Salah, chief of the armed forces. Some people ran alongside flower-draped military vehicles, shouting in grief. Others saluted his coffin, draped in the Algerian flag, or kissed his portrait. The 79-year-old Gaid Salah died unexpectedly Monday after a heart attack, plunging Algeria into new uncertainty after 10 months of pro-democracy protests.

After a ceremony at the Palace of the People, he was buried at the El Alia cemetery alongside others who fought in Algeria’s war for independence from France. Algeria’s military plays a central role in decision-making in this country, a key ally to Western powers in fighting Islamic extremism. Gaid Salah leaves behind a mixed legacy.

15 people injured in helicopter emergency landing in Russia

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian officials say 15 people are injured after a passenger helicopter made a rough emergency landing in Siberia on Wednesday morning. The Mi-8 helicopter with 21 passengers and three crew members got caught in a snow-


storm soon after taking off in the village of Baykit, officials from the local branch of Russia’s Emergency Ministry said. The helicopter toppled over upon landing. The injured have received medical help and two remain in a hospital, health care officials said. Police are investigating the accident. The Mi-8, code-named Hip by NATO, is a medium twin-turbine helicopter designed in the Soviet Union and widely used in Russia as a transport aircraft. Rough landings and other incidents involving Mi-8 helicopters have become rather common in Russia in recent months. On Wednesday afternoon, another Mi-8 helicopter made an rough emergency landing in one of Russia’s Arctic regions. All 23 people on board were evacuated without inju-

ries, emergency officials in the Nenets region said. It wasn’t immediately clear what caused the incident.

Notre Dame rector: Fragile cathedral might not be saved

PARIS (AP)—The rector of Notre Dame Cathedral says the Paris landmark is still so fragile that there’s a “50% chance” the structure might not be saved, because scaffolding installed before this year’s fire is threatening the vaults of the Gothic monument. Monsignor Patrick Chauvet said restoration work isn’t likely to begin until 2021—and described his “heartache” that Notre Dame couldn’t hold Christmas services this year, for the first time since


the French Revolution. “Today it is not out of danger,” he told The Associated Press on the sidelines of Christmas Eve midnight Mass in a nearby church. “It will be out of danger when we take out the remaining scaffolding.” “Today we can say that there is maybe a 50% chance that it will be saved. There is also 50% chance of scaffolding falling onto the three vaults, so as you can see the building is still very fragile,” he said. The 12th-century cathedral was under renovation at the time of the accidental April fire, which destroyed its roof and collapsed its spire. With no more roof to keep the massive stone structure stable, the cathedral’s surviving vaults are crucial to keeping it standing, but they are vulnerable.



UNITED STATES

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 1st Quarter General Membership Meeting on December 30, 2019, from 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm at the Kanoa Resort, Seaside Hall.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of December 30, 2019

IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2019

V. Reports

a. Chairperson

b. State Plan Committee Chairperson

c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson

d. Executive Director

VI. Old Business

a. Disability Resource & Training Center Update

b. Joint Meeting with CNMI UCEDD Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) Update

c. AVA App Demonstration Update

VII. New Business

a. International Day of People with Disabilities

b. International Day of Acceptance – January 17-18, 2020

c. Sibling Network

VIII. Action Items

a. Creation of Ad Hoc Committee on Accessibility

b. Formalization of the Disability Network Partners

IX. Miscellaneous

X. Next Meeting – January 2020


XI. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Jan Barcinas

Chairperson

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)




COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM DR-4235, 4396, 4404-MP

PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Telephone: (670) 664-2374 • Facsimile: (670) 664-2408



RFQ20-GOV-027

Request for Qualification Statement for Construction Management Services for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Water Mitigation Project

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lieutenant Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Hazard Mitigation Program, Office of the Governor (collectively, “Commonwealth”) and on behalf of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified consultants to provide Construction Management (CM) Services for the Water Mitigation Project at Various Well Sites on Saipan, MP.

Procurement procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 (Local Preference Act) as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The Scope of Work for the CM is available at the HMGP Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI. A pre-proposal conference will be conducted on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. ChST at the Governor’s Conference Room. Questions regarding this RFQ must be submitted in writing to Ms. Leona Deleon Guerrero, Program Manager, at ldlguerrero@omb.gov.mp or to fax no. (670) 664-2408 no later than 4:00 p.m. ChST Friday, January 17, 2020.

Statements of professional qualification from interested firms must address, and will be evaluated on the following criteria:

A. Overall construction management experience in the Western Pacific Region, and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands - (25%)

B. Specialized experience and technical competence in the type of work required and previous experience with projects similar in scope - (30%)

C. Past performance on similar projects, including cost control, ability to meet schedules, and quality of completed construction - (30%)

D. Current workload and demonstrated ability to perform the project Scope of Work - (15%)

E. Fee - (0%)

To qualify, firms must have a valid CNMI Business License, Certificate of Authorization and must be licensed to practice engineering in the CNMI. Firms shall also submit an estimate (range) of CM fees based upon a 12-month project schedule. Fee estimates will assist the HMGP Office with their budget, but will not be considered in the firm evaluation scores.

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330 and shall not exceed 30 pages.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three (3) ranked firms. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fare and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The selected firm will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Qualification statements must be sealed and marked “RFQ20-GOV-027, Construction Management Services for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Water Mitigation Project”. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the qualifications statement must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP, no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST, Friday, January 31, 2020. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST, Friday, January 31, 2020 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to a.magofna@dof.gov.mp. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed qualifications statement must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than Friday, January 31, 2020, and must be received by the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply no later than Tuesday, February 11, 2020. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be the cause for rejection of a proposal.

BREACH OF ETHICAL STANDARDS

(To be part of Solicitation for Quotes, ITBs and RFPs)

• Gratuities. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefore. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(a).

• Kickbacks. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontractor or order. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(b)

• Contingent Fees. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-730.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

Virginia C. Villagomez

Governor’s Authorized Representative

Francisco C. Aguon

Acting Director, Procurement & Supply



ROBERT TENORIO TORRES, F0197

ATTORNEY AT LAW

PLATA DRIVE, WHISPERING PALMS (CHALAN KIYA)

P.O. BOX 503758 CK

SAIPAN, MP 96950

TELEPHONE: (670) 234-7859

FACSIMILE: (670) 234-5749

CIVILLE & TANG, PLLC

SIRENA PEREZ CASSIDY, F0338

330 HERNAN CORTEZ AVENUE, SUITE 200

HAGATNA, GUAM 96910

TELEPHONE: (671) 472-8869/69

FACSIMILE: (671) 477-2511

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT

FOR THE

COMMONWEALTH OF THE

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ANZ GUAM, INC.,

formerly known as

CITIZENS SECURITY

BANKS (GUAM), INC.,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JESUS T. LIZAMA dba

VICTORIA HOTEL,

J&JEV ENTERPRISES,

INC., and the

BANK OF GUAM,

Defendants.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of the Amended Judgment made and entered in the above titled action on 30th day of January, 2001, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to Plaintiff ANZ GUAM, INC., formerly known as CITIZENS SECURITY BANK (GUAM), INC. ("ANZ"), in the above titled action from Defendants JESUS T. LIZAMA DBA VICTORIA HOTEL AND J&JEV ENTERPRISES, INC., as prescribed in the Order Directing Foreclosure Sale of Mortgaged Property filed on February 13, 2013, pursuant to 7 CMC § 4537(e) the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 16th day of January, 2020 at 10 a.m., at Victoria Hotel, located on Micro Beach Rd, Garapan, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

PARCELS 1 & 2:

a. LOT 001 D 13, (formerly known as Block 3, Lot 1), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 D 00, the original of which was registered 30 SEP 70 as Document No. 512 at Land Registry, Saipan.

b. LOT 001 D 14, (formerly known as Block 3, Lot 2), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 D 00, the original of which was registered 30 SEP 70 as Document No. 512 at Land Registry, Saipan.

And immediately thereafter, the sale of the following parcel of property:

PARCEL 3:

c. TRACT 21732-9, part of original Tract 21732-R1, AH 140), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2085/84, the original of which was recorded 08 AUG 84 as Document No. 84-1439 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a. Withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.

b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c. To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. All the property listed in this notice shall be sold to the highest bidder at a public auction, without any warranty being given, express or implied, with respect to the title, possession, and encumbrances, to satisfy the amount due to Plaintiff ANZ GUAM, INC. on the date of the sale under the Amended Judgment as prescribed in the Order Directing Foreclosure Sale of Mortgaged Property. ANZ GUAM, INC. reserves the right to bid all or part of the amount due at the time of the sale.

3. Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by the successful bidder. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Plaintiff, ANZ GUAM, INC., formerly known as CITIZENS SECURITY BANK (GUAM), INC.

4. Inspection. Interested bidders may inspect the property at the following times:

Parcels 1 & 2: January 9, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Parcel 3: January 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

5. Change of Terms. ANZ GUAM, INC., reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

6. No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 17th day of December 2019.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

## Georgia family discovers owl in Christmas tree

ATLANTA (AP)—A Georgia family got a real hoot from its Christmas tree: More than a week after they bought it, they discovered a live owl nestled among its branches.

Katie McBride Newman said Friday that she and her daughter spotted the bird on Dec. 12. They had bought the 10-foot (3-meter) tall tree from a Home Depot, brought it back to their Atlanta area

home and decorated it with lights and, coincidentally, owl ornaments.

“It was surreal, but we weren’t really freaked out about it,” McBride Newman said. “We’re really outdoorsy people. We love the wilderness.”

The family opened windows and doors near the tree hoping the owl would fly away, but it didn’t.

“The owl seemed to be pretty comfortable, and I thought, ‘Hey buddy, it’s not going to go well if you just stay here.

There’s no food, I’m sorry,’” said McBride Newman’s husband, Billy Newman.

So the family called a non-profit nature center for help. The Chattahoochee Nature Center caught the bird and helped the family release it.

McBride Newman said she believed the bird had been in the tree since they bought it, but was hidden.

“We think he was just in there hugging the trunk,” she said. “It’s a very dense tree and it was very fresh. That’s why we picked it.”

This photo provided by Billy Newman Photography shows an owl nestled in a Christmas tree that belongs to Katie McBride Newman in Newnan, Ga.

AP

### OFFBEAT BRIEFS

**Gold bar donated to Salvation Army red kettle in Kentucky**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—A gold bar worth almost \$1,500 was found among donations to one of the Salvation Army’s red kettles in Kentucky. Louisville Area Commander Major Roy Williams told WAVE-TV that the bar was found over the weekend in a kettle at the Kroger in Prospect. It was the fourth straight year that a one-ounce gold piece has been donated anonymously, he said. Other smaller gold and silver coins also have been found in recent days. The Louisville Area Salvation Army said it is still about \$70,000 short of its fundraising goal. The charity hopes to raise \$500,000 during its annual Red Kettle Campaign, which runs through Christmas Eve.

### Rookie NFL player pays

**off layaway debts for 60 people**

OCALA, Fla. (AP)—A rookie NFL player has paid off the layaway debts for five dozen people at a shopping center store in Florida. Ulysees Gilbert, a linebacker for the Pittsburgh Steelers, on Monday paid off thousands of dollars in debts for 60 people at a Burlington Coast Factory at the Shady Oaks Shopping Center in Ocala, Florida. Gilbert graduated from a local high school. He said he got the idea when he saw other professional athletes paying off layaway debts on social media. Mark Shipman, the store manager, said Gilbert’s actions were special. “He is a good person,” Shipman told the Ocala Star Banner. “You could tell he was doing it for the right reasons, out of the kindness from his heart.”

**Police: 3-year-old boy shoots sleeping father in buttocks**

A 3-year-old Erie boy shot his sleeping father in the buttocks with a gun he found in their Pennsylvania home, authorities said. The shooting happened about 6:30 p.m. Thursday in Erie, when the child found a loaded, small-caliber handgun and fired it at his 26-year-old father. The dad was being treated at a hospital for wounds that are not considered life-threatening. His name has not been released. It’s not clear how the child found the handgun, authorities said. Two other children in the house at the time were not injured. The shooting remains under investigation. (AP)

**‘County’ misspelled on 10,000 trash bins in Alabama town**

PRICHARD, Ala. (AP)—

Some spelling mistakes are tough to see, but that doesn’t include the one that was made on 10,000 trash bins in an Alabama city. The city of Prichard’s new residential garbage cans say the town is located in “Mobile Country,” but they were supposed to say it’s located in “Mobile County” without the extra “r.” The mistake isn’t just in fine print: It’s printed in large letters on two sides of the big, gray cans. Prichard Mayor Jimmie Gardner told WPML-TV the city’s public works department had the duty of making sure the writing on the cans was spelled correctly. “Things like that do happen in the proofing,” he said. The city doesn’t plan to replace the bins, and that’s fine with some people. “It doesn’t really matter as long as they pick it up,” said longtime resident Murlean Henderson.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT

OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER

OF THE ESTATE

OF:

MARIA REAGEN

REBUENOG,

Deceased.

Civil Case No. 19-0345

NOTICE OF HEARING

ON VERIFIED PETITION

FOR LETTERS OF

ADMINISTRATION AND

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND

CREDITORS OF: MARIA REAGEN REBUENOG,

DECEASED

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of ANTONIO N. SATUR, for the issuance of letters of administration of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding/Associate Judge, on the 9th day of January, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., at the Marianas Business Plaza, 2nd Floor, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, of any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact Pro Se Petitioner, Antonio N. Satur, P.O. Box 5592 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 483-8833. Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, MARIA REAGEN REBUENOG, or of her estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 5th day of December, 2019.

Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court

/s/

By: Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT

OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER

OF THE ESTATE

OF:

JOAQUINA

KILELEMAN,

Deceased.

Civil Case No. 19-0346

NOTICE OF HEARING ON

VERIFIED PETITION

FOR LETTERS OF

ADMINISTRATION AND

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND

CREDITORS OF: JOAQUINA KILELEMAN,

DECEASED

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of ANTONIO N. SATUR for the issuance of letters of administration of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding/Associate Judge, on the 9th day of January, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., at the Marianas Business Plaza, 2nd Floor, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, of any, why, the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact Pro Se Petitioner, Antonio N. Satur, P.O. Box 5592 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 483-8833. Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, JOAQUINA KILELEMAN, or of her estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 5th day of December, 2019.

Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court

/s/

By: Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT

OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF

THE ESTATE OF:

ROSA R.

ANGALLEN,

(a.k.a. Rosa

Regin)

Deceased.

Civil Case No. 19-0347

NOTICE OF HEARING ON

VERIFIED PETITION FOR

LETTERS OF

ADMINISTRATION AND

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND

CREDITORS OF: ROSA R. ANGALLEN (a.k.a

Rosa Regin), DECEASED

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of ANTONIO N. SATUR for the issuance of letters of administration of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding/Associate Judge, on the 9th day of January, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., at the Marianas Business Plaza, 2nd Floor, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, of any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact Pro Se Petitioner, Antonio N. Satur, P.O. Box 5592 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 483-8833. Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, ROSA R. ANGALLEN (a.k.a. Rosa Regin), or of her estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 5th day of December, 2019

Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court

/s/

By: Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT

OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF

THE ESTATE OF:

PROFILIO

KILELEMAN

SATUR,

Deceased.

Civil Case No. 19-0348

NOTICE OF HEARING

ON VERIFIED PETITION

FOR LETTERS OF

ADMINISTRATION AND

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND

CREDITORS OF: PROFILIO KILELEMAN SATUR,

DECEASED

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of ANTONIO N. SATUR for the issuance of letters of administration of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding/Associate Judge, on the 9th day of January, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., at the Marianas Business Plaza, 2nd Floor Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, of any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact Pro Se Petitioner, Antonio N. Satur, P.O. Box 5592 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 483-8833. Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, PROFILIO KILELEMAN SATUR, or of her estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 5th day of December, 2019.

Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court

/s/

By: Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT

OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER

OF THE ESTATE

OF:

MAGDALENA

NAKATSUKASA

MARATITA,

Deceased.

Civil Action

No. 19-0374-CV

NOTICE OF HEARING ON

PETITION FOR LETTERS

OF ADMINISTRATION

and NOTICE

TO CREDITORS

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND

CREDITORS OF: MAGDALENA NAKATSUKASA

MARATITA, DECEASED

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of ERNESTINA NORITA MARATITA for the issuance of letters of administration of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding/Associate Judge, on the 9th day of January, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., at the Marianas Business Plaza, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, of any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the amended Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@san-nicolasilaw.net.

Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, MAGDALENA NAKATSUKASA MARATITA, or of her estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 23rd day of December, 2019.

/s/ Judge Camacho, Joseph Norita



# Off The Wall

## It takes a tech village to track Santa on Christmas Eve

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** (AP)—Depending on which country they're from, the kids may ask about Father Christmas, Papa Noel, Saint Nick or Santa Claus.

But those who believe all want to know one thing: where

in the world the jolly old man and his sleigh full of gifts are on Christmas Eve.

For the 64th time, a wildly popular program run by the U.S. and Canadian militaries is providing real-time updates on Santa's progress to millions

around the globe.

And this year, the North American Aerospace Defense Command is offering even more high-tech ways for children and parents to follow along.

Operation NORAD Tracks Santa has evolved from a misdirected telephone call in 1955, to a trailer parked outside the command's former lair deep inside Cheyenne Mountain, to NORAD's modern-day headquarters at Colorado's Peterson Air Force Base.

Along the way, the tens of thousands of telephone calls fielded by NORAD volunteers each year have been augmented by an explosion of technology that lets millions track St. Nick's journey from the North Pole to the Pacific and Asia, from Europe to the Americas.

This year's portals include Alexa, OnStar, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and 3-D apps developed for mobile devices by Cesium, a Philadelphia-based IT and defense contractor. The apps integrate geospatial and satellite-positioning technology with high-resolution graphics that display the actual positions of the stars, sun and moon and the shadows they cast at any point in Santa's journey.

It takes a village of dozens of tech firms—including Google, Microsoft, Hewlett Packard and Bing Maps—to deliver the immersive effect for global Santa trackers, with

some 15 million visits to the website alone last year.

And it takes a village of 1,500 volunteers to field emails and the 140,000 or so telephone calls to 1-877-HI-

NORAD (1-877-446-6723). They staff phone banks equipped with monitors inside a building at Peterson, which offers a view of snow-capped Pikes Peak to the west.

More volunteers and firms donate food, water and coffee to those on Santa Watch.

"Hi Santa Trackers! Lots of kids are waiting to ask you about Santa," a sign reads.

## Email 'receipts' are a scam

### TECH Q&A

By **STEVE ALEXANDER**

Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: [steve.j.alexander@gmail.com](mailto:steve.j.alexander@gmail.com). Please include a full name, city and phone number.



**Q** : I've received e-mail "receipts," allegedly from Microsoft, for products I never ordered. The receipts include \$1,500 for "MS Defender Firewall" and \$300 for "Windows Defender Firewall / Internet Security." The e-mails list phone numbers to call if I have questions. Is this a scam?

**A:** It's a scam. The product names are similar to software included in Windows. Since you use Yahoo Mail, mark these messages as spam. Never call the phone numbers contained in the e-mails; it's an attempt to get your credit card numbers or other personal data.

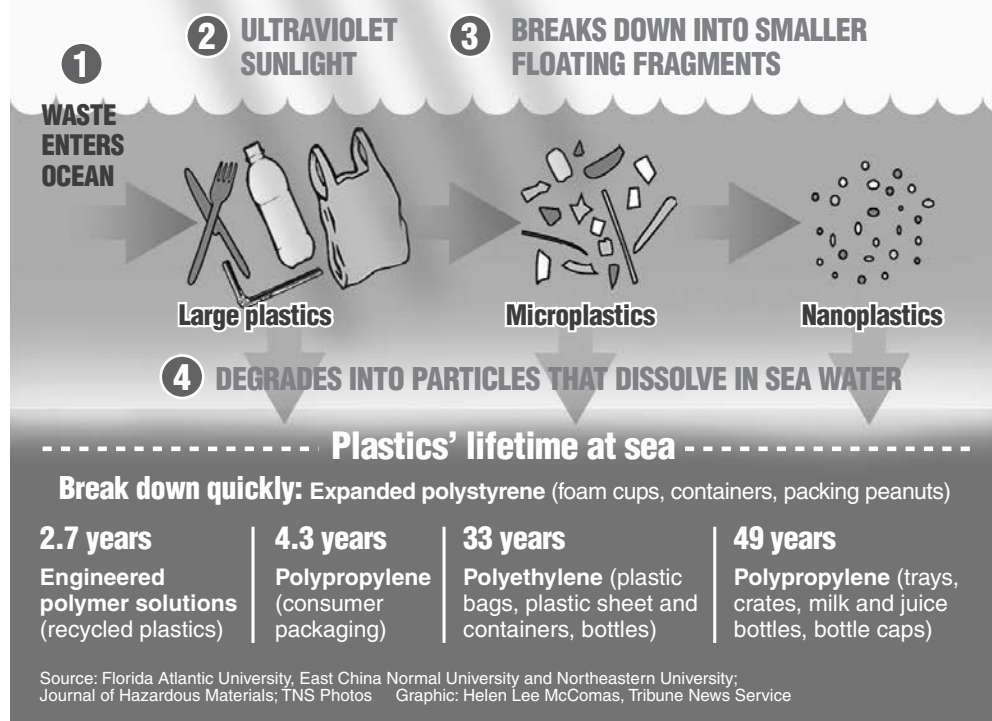
**Q:** I'm having trouble making my HP OfficeJet 5740 printer connect to a Windows 10 PC, even though it works fine with a Windows 7 PC. There seems to be a "configuration error" that can't be resolved by my HP and Microsoft troubleshooting software. What should I do?

**A:** You are probably using printer software that was intended for Windows 7 and doesn't work with Windows 10. Download Windows 10-compatible software drivers for the OfficeJet 5740 (see [tinyurl.com/l335hzs](http://tinyurl.com/l335hzs)). HP also has a help website for users with printer problems after a Windows 10 update or upgrade (see [tinyurl.com/uugdjwa](http://tinyurl.com/uugdjwa)).



## The missing mass of plastic waste

Sunlight breaks down floating plastic, and the tiny pieces are missed by ocean studies



## CNMI SCHOLARSHIP BOARD

P.O. Box 5729 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950 | Telephone No. (670) 664-4750

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Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Scholarship Board of Directors is hereby giving notice that it will hold its 1st quarter regular board meeting on Monday, December 30, 2019 at 11:00 am on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the CNMI Scholarship Office Conference Room.

### AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes
- V. Board Correspondences
- VI. Public Comments
- VII. Old Business
  - a. Rules and Regulations Proposed Amendment
- VIII. New Business
  - a. Selection of Committee Members
  - b. PSEP Support Fields for FY2019/20
- IX. CSO Administrator's Updates
- X. Executive Session
- XI. Announcements & Next Meeting
- XII. Adjournment

/s/ Geralyn C. Dela Cruz, Chairwoman

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) is considering a request for Federal assistance from the Northern Marianas Technical Institute to construct a Career and Technical Training facility in Koblerville, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EDA is conducting an assessment of the potential of the proposed project to affect the environment and/or historic properties.

The project consists of a 2-storey, 29,239 sq.ft. concrete facility for heavy-trade shops, offices and classrooms. The project will be located at Koblerville, Saipan on a lot partly and formerly used as Isley airfield and situated in between a regulation-sized soccer field and an undeveloped area intended for homesteads. Project information is available for review during regular business hours at Northern Marianas Technical Institute on Manglen Way, Lower Base, Saipan, M.P. 96950 – telephone number (670) 322-6684 or by email at [secretary@nmticnmi.org](mailto:secretary@nmticnmi.org)

If you have any information regarding potential impacts environmental resources or historic properties associated with this proposed project, please provide it in writing to:

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economic Development Administration  
Attn: Regional Environmental Officer  
915 Second Avenue, Room 1890  
Seattle, Washington 98174-1012  
E-mail: [RDimmick@eda.gov](mailto:RDimmick@eda.gov)

Comments received in the EDA Seattle Regional Office by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time on January 11th, 2020 will be considered. A copy of the NEPA/NHPA decisional document will be available upon request at the above EDA Regional Office.



## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

**Regular General Membership Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 02, 2020**  
**9:00am-11:00am**  
**NMC Board of Regents Conference Room**

### AGENDA

- I. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum
- II. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- III. Review and Adoption of Minutes
  - a. December 11, 2019 meeting
- IV. Public Comments (5 Minutes per Commenter)
- V. Old Business
  - a. Draft 2020-2023 WIOA Unified State Plan
- VI. New Business
  - a. WIOA By-Laws and Policy Manual Amendments
- VII. Executive Session
- VIII. Announcements
- IX. Next Meeting
  - a. Wednesday, February 19, 2020
- X. Adjournment

Approved by:  
/s/  
Josephine DLG. Mesta  
Chair



# Life & Style



AP  
This undated file photo provided by Matthew Westmoreland shows Riley Howell.

## Student who saved classmates from shooting honored as Jedi

**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)**—A North Carolina college student hailed by police as a hero for preventing more injuries and deaths after a gunman opened fire in a classroom has now been immortalized as a Jedi by the production company for the Star Wars franchise.

News outlets report the family of Riley Howell, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte student who is described as a huge Star Wars fan, was tipped off by Lucasfilm, in May that it planned to honor him in a forthcoming book, "Star Wars:

The Rise of Skywalker—The Visual Dictionary." The book was released by publisher DK to coincide with the release of the new film "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker."

In May, the fan relations team for Lucasfilm wrote a letter to Howell's family expressing condolences.

"Riley's courage and selflessness brings out the Jedi in all of us," wrote fan relations team member Lucas Seastrom. "We hope that you may rejoice in his memory, and we join you in honoring his life and example."

"As a small tribute, our Story Group has incorporated a reimagining of Riley's name as a character in the Star Wars galaxy," Seastrom continued. "... The Force will be with Riley, and all of you, always..."

The entry in the book is just 66 words, but credits Jedi master and historian "Ri-Lee Howell" with collecting "many of the earliest accounts of exploration and codifications of The Force."

Riley Howell's mother, Natalie Henry-Howell, told The Charlotte Observer that that this

actually marks the second time her son has appeared in a "Star Wars" book: When he was a little boy, an uncle had a personalized book made for Riley that put him in the starring role of "The Phantom Menace."

"It was a big hit of a gift," she recalls, noting that the inclusion in the new book is far more significant.

"And I like the way they actually left his last name," Henry-Howell says. "I think he would really be appreciative of that. Because, you know, they could have just said Ri-Lee—

Jedi Ri-Lee—and we'd be guessing the whole time about whether or not that was really (him), but they put his last name in there just to really honor him ... and that really made me cry when I heard about it."

The entire family went to see the new movie on opening night. They brought his ashes, and left a seat open for him.

"I think," Henry-Howell says, "he would have liked the way it ended."

Howell, 21, and a classmate died April 30 when a gunman opened fire in a classroom in the Kennedy building on UNCC's campus. Four other students were injured, but police say Howell's actions prevented more injuries or loss of life.

## Queen Elizabeth II admit 'bumpy' year in annual Christmas speech

**LONDON (AP)**—Queen Elizabeth II plans to acknowledge that both Britain and her family have endured a difficult year by saying during her Christmas message that it has been a "bumpy" time.

The pre-recorded message will be broadcast in Britain and the Commonwealth nations on Christmas Day. It was recorded before the queen's husband, Prince Philip, was hospitalized in London as a precautionary measure.

Excerpts released by Buckingham Palace before the speech show the queen admits difficulties during the course of the year.

Talking about the need for reconciliation and forgiveness, Elizabeth says: "The path, of course, is not always smooth, and may at times this year have felt quite bumpy, but small steps can make a world of difference."

She is thought to be referring both to Britain's tortuous path out of the Euro-

pean Union, which led to a lengthy political stalemate broken only earlier this month when voters gave the pro-Brexit Conservative Party a comfortable majority in Parliament, and to the royal family's setbacks.

The problems facing the queen's family this year included Prince Andrew's retreat from public duties because of a disastrous TV interview in which he defended his friendship with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

The family has also endured a public rift between Prince William and Prince Harry, who has traveled with his wife Meghan and young son Archie to Canada rather than spend the Christmas holidays at Sandringham Estate—the queen's rural retreat, as has long been customary for senior royals.

Both Harry and Meghan have complained about constant scrutiny by the media as they settle into family life with 7-month-old Archie.

## What's new in December on the streaming services

By DIANE WERTS  
NEWSDAY

Expecting TV to slow down this December? Think again. Streaming services take advantage of the broadcast network doldrums to double down on originals. Netflix, in particular, stacks up both series premieres and season returns.

**The Report** (now, Amazon Prime film)—Adam Driver, Annette Bening, Jon Hamm headline this docudrama thriller of government torture coverups.

**The Meshuga Nutcracker!** (now on BroadwayHD)—Eight colorful musical comedy tales evoke the holiday of Chanukah, including a klezmer-ized take on "The Nutcracker."

**Midsomer Murders** (now, Acorn TV/BritBox)—Season 21? How long can this go on? So long as viewers keep loving Neil Dudgeon's small-

town sleuthing. (4 episodes)

**One Day at Disney** (now, Disney+ film)—Full-length documentary launches a yearlong run of behind-the-scenes shorts.

**V-Wars** (Dec. 5, Netflix)—Series premiere: Ian Somerhalder ("Vampire Diaries," "Lost") tracks a new world in which humans and vampires are poised to go to war. (10 episodes)

**The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel** (Dec. 6, Amazon Prime)—Season 3 sends Rachel Brosnahan's midcentury standup comic on tour. With Jane Lynch, Alex Borstein, Tony Shalhoub. (8 episodes)

**Truth Be Told** (Dec. 6, Apple+)—Series premiere: Octavia Spencer's podcaster reopens her famed murder investigation when she comes face to face with the man who wound up in prison (Aaron Paul). With Lizzy Caplan, Elizabeth Perkins, Michael Beach. (8 episodes)

**Reprisal** (Dec. 6, Hulu)—

Series premiere: Abigail Spencer's left-for-dead victim seeks revenge on a gang of gearheads. With Rodrigo Santoro, Mena Massoud. (10 episodes)

**Astronomy Club: The Sketch Show** (Dec. 6, Netflix)—Series premiere: New comedy-troupe lunacy, shepherded by folks from "black-ish" and "I Think You Should Leave."

**Into the Dark** (Dec. 6 and 27, Hulu)—Two new episodes of chills pegged to Christmas career rivalry and New Year's Eve kiss rituals.

**The Expanse** (Dec. 13, Amazon Prime)—Season 4 transfers from Syfy with viscerally visualized space conflict as Earth, Mars and the Belt battle over the resources of planets beyond The Ring Gate. (10 episodes)

**Streamy Awards** (Dec. 13, YouTube)—Ninth annual ceremony streams live at 8 p.m. from Hollywood's Beverly Hilton.

**Photo: A History From Behind the Lens** (Dec. 16, Sundance Now)—Series premiere: Explore the art of photography from its earliest European and American innovators. (12 episodes)

**The Witcher** (Dec. 20, Netflix)—Series premiere: Fantasy books of monster hunter come to life with Henry Cavill, Anya Chalotra, Freya Allan. (8 episodes)

**Fast & Furious Spy Racers** (Dec. 25, Netflix)—Series premiere: Movie franchise spins out into this animated action saga. (Looking for the F&F movies? They're on Hulu.)

**Gavin and Stacey Christmas** (Dec. 25, BritBox)—New holiday reunion from the romantic comedy show that made James Corden a star.

**You** (Dec. 26, Netflix)—Season 2: Penn Badgley's bookstore manager and serial killer moves over from Lifetime for 10 new episodes.

## Kevin Spacey posts bizarre Christmas video

By JAMI GANZ  
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Ho ho holy moly, that was uncomfortable.

Disgraced actor Kevin Spacey, seldom heard from since his #MeToo scandal blew up in 2017, posted a bizarre and disturbing video to YouTube on Christmas Eve in which he appears to channel his malevolent "House of Cards" role, murderous politician Frank Underwood—who was killed off in the wake of the allegations against the actor.

"You didn't really think I was going to miss the opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas, did you? It's been a pretty good year," Spacey says to the viewer, breaking the fourth wall as his character did on the Netflix series. "And I'm grateful to have my health back. And in light of that, I've

made some changes in my life, and I'd like to invite you to join me. As we walk into 2020, I want to cast my vote for ... more good in this world."



Spacey

The 60-year-old "American Beauty" star added that he's "dead serious."

"It's not that hard, trust me. The next time someone does something you don't like, you can go on the attack. But you can also hold your fire and do the unexpected. You can ... kill them with kindness."

Spacey was hit with an onslaught of sexual assault allegations in 2017 in the wake of those leveled against then-movie mogul Harvey Weinstein.

The actor continues to maintain his innocence and he no longer faces criminal charges, as two of the cases were dropped in July, and an accuser from a third case died.



# Dancer born with one hand makes Radio City Rockettes history

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A dancer born with one hand is the first person with a visible disability ever hired by New York's famed Radio City Rockettes.

"I don't want to be known as the dancer who has one hand, and not because that's a bad thing," Sydney Mesher, who joined the Rockettes this season, told Newsday. "But because I've worked very hard to be where I am."

Mesher, 22, is missing a left hand because of symbrachydac-

tyly, a rare congenital condition.

The Pace University graduate from Portland, Oregon, was hired by the Rockettes after her fourth audition. She said she has been "mesmerized" by the troupe, which dates to 1925, ever since first seeing them on TV in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Mesher said she started dancing as a child and attended a performing arts high school. In the Radio City Christmas Spectacular, audiences caught up in the show might not notice

her missing hand, even where there are minor modifications to the act to accommodate her. In one number where the Rockettes ring a bell in each hand, she rings just one.

Rockettes creative director Karen Keeler called Mesher "an incredibly versatile dancer with a strong work ethic." Keeler said Mesher "is smart and determined, with an eye for detail."

The annual Radio City Christmas Spectacular runs through Jan. 5.



In this Oct. 22, 2019 photo, Rockette Sydney Mesher center right, takes part in a rehearsal at the Rockette's rehearsal space in New York. AP

## Rapper DaBaby handcuffed, given pot citation after concert

**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)**—Grammy-nominated rapper DaBaby was handcuffed and cited on a misdemeanor marijuana charge in North Carolina hours after he performed a concert and gave away toys to children.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg police issued citations to the rapper, whose real name is Jonathan Kirk, on counts of misdemeanor possession of marijuana and resisting an officer Monday night, according to a police statement.

The police statement said officers working outside the concert venue, Bojangles Arena, noticed a strong smell of marijuana coming from

the van that brought Kirk there. Officers say they approached the vehicle and could see marijuana in plain view through the windows by using their flashlights.

The police statement said the marijuana in plain view gave them probable cause to take further action. Officers said they waited until after the concert and approached Kirk as he was exiting the venue around 11 p.m., but he walked away and refused to speak to them.

"Officers stated they detained Kirk in handcuffs and indicated they legally searched the vehicle," the news release said. "Officers stated they located marijuana

in the vehicle and Kirk was transported to another location for the safety and security of Kirk and the officers."

Officers, who said they found less than a half-ounce (14 grams) of marijuana, took him to the sheriff's department but decided ultimately to issue him citations and let him leave in lieu of making an arrest.

Kirk told reporters he believes officers unlawfully searched his car while he was on stage. Video obtained by WCNC-TV reportedly shows the rapper being detained in the parking lot. He says officers target him every time he comes to Charlotte.

## 'Game of Thrones' author Martin opens bookstore in Santa Fe

**SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)**—"Game of Thrones" author and television producer George R.R. Martin is adding bookstore owner to his resume.

The fantasy writer quietly opened Beastly Books last month in Santa Fe next to the movie theater he revived in 2013, the Santa Fe New Mexican reported.

The shop sells books by him and by local authors and "Game of Thrones" merchandise.

Martin, a longtime Santa Fe resident, wrote on his blog that he opened the bookstore in part because the lobby of his Jean Cocteau Cinema theater was too small to display books by visiting authors.

Martin in June joined a New

Mexico-based art collective known as Meow Wolf.

He will serve as "chief world builder" for a permanent installation inside a multidimensional Santa Fe mystery house.

Martin's novel series, "A Song of Ice and Fire," inspired the HBO TV show "Game of Thrones." It aired its eighth and final season in May.

## Celtics rookie conducts Boston orchestra's holiday concert

**BOSTON (AP)**—Boston Celtics player Tacko Fall made his debut as a guest conductor during the renowned Boston Pops orchestra's holiday concert.

The 7-foot-6 center took the stage to lead the orchestra in a rendition of the song "Sleigh Ride" at Boston's Symphony Hall Monday night. Fall was wearing a custom-made, size-48 double extra-long tuxedo.

Fall used a baton that was given to him by longtime conductor Keith Lockhart, The Boston Globe reported. Lockhart wrote "Congratulations to Tacko!" on the baton in green marker.

Lockhart called Fall "the tallest person to ever conduct the Boston Pops" before inviting him to come up on stage.

"Someone has come on the scene here and in a few

short months has stolen everybody's hearts—not just because of his athletic ability but also because of the size of his spirit and the broadness of his

smile," Lockhart said.

The audience cheered during Fall's performance as he did a spin and wiggled his arms in time with the music.



In this Monday, Dec. 23, 2019, photo provided by Boston Pops, Boston Celtics player Tacko Fall makes his debut as a guest conductor during the renowned Boston Pops orchestra's holiday concert in Boston. AP

## Woman ambushed by revelation of husband's long-term affair

**DEAR ABBY:** I recently found out my husband has been having a four-year affair with a woman 24 years younger than I am. He met her at work. He tells me he loves her, but he loves me more. Abby, they actually thought I would agree to him taking her on as a second wife, but, of course, I refused. They no longer see each other, but communicate regularly by text. He misses her, she misses him, and I am deeply hurt, since nothing will ever be the same.

I am also devastated because of my husband's four years of lies and deception. I didn't suspect a thing and always loved him deeply. Can I get over this?

HURTING IN WASHINGTON

**DEAR HURTING:** If you are going to get past this—notice I did not say "get over"—it will take both cooperation from your husband and the services of a licensed marriage and family therapist.

You were lied to and betrayed, and it wasn't a one-time mistake. That he and his paramour remain in touch indicates that while the physical affair may be over, their emotional affair is ongoing. For your marriage to be repaired and trust rebuilt, that too must end.

**DEAR ABBY:** My son-in-law is lazy and arrogant. My daughter seems to think he walks on water. He has answers and

excuses for everything. I'm realizing that he may never amount to anything, because he has no ambition. They recently had a baby, and he does very little to help. Washing and sterilizing bottles leaves him "exhausted."

I treasure my relationship with my daughter and grandson and want them all to want to come over and be close. I am trying to keep my mouth shut, but my daughter knows how I feel. How do I navigate this challenge of having to bite my lip when I see him lying around with a sink full of dishes? What am I allowed to say without alienating him?

EXASPERATED MOM IN CANADA

**DEAR MOM:** If you are wise, you will keep your thoroughly chewed lip zipped. Your daughter knows how you feel, so resist that urge to harp on it. When she reaches her limit, I'm sure she will come up with some choice phrases to blast her husband off the sofa. Remember, this is her problem, not yours, so let her handle it.

**DEAR ABBY:** We are part of a group of four couples who arrange to get together for dinners. One of the couples continually invites another couple at the last minute without checking with the rest of us.

We are hosting a dinner and planned it around the eight of us, only to find out this couple has invited another couple—again! I explained to the woman that I don't think it's nice to invite ad-

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

ditional people without first checking with the hosts, certainly not at 10 o'clock the night before, but they don't want to leave the fifth couple out. This is the third time this has happened, and others have spoken to her about it to no avail. Please help!

UNINVITED IN DELAWARE

**DEAR UNINVITED:** What the woman is doing is beyond inconsiderate. The "way to handle it" would be to discuss it with the other group members and agree to disinvite this couple from your group. Three strikes and they're out.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

Garfield®

Adam@home

The Duplex

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

37 Milk container

1 "Unh-unh"

4 Sharif of "Funny Girl"

8 Differ

12 — Dhahi

13 Sushi wrapper

14 Cruising

15 Curry powder spice

17 Dark blue

18 Canada's capital

19 Barbie's companion

21 Lass

22 Euphoric

26 Like April weather

29 Cash dispenser

30 Tic-tac-toe loser

31 Gymnast Korbüt

32 Carefree

33 Sulk

34 Ring decision

35 Pod veggie

36 Head lights?

DOWN

1 Peace-keeping org.

2 Border on

3 In pain

4 Type of street

5 Aesopian ending

6 "Entou- rage" role

7 Unstable, as a chair

8 Woman of letters?

9 Red — beet

10 Gun the engine

11 "Rah!"

16 — Carta

20 Shade tree

23 Implement for short

24 Big fair,

25 Accom- plishes

26 Campus mil. group

27 — -Seltzer

28 Mr. Stra- vinsky

29 Motorist's org.

32 Not brand- name

33 Frenzied

35 "The Bells" author

36 Marsh birds

38 "Ta-da!"

39 Orlando attraction

42 Close

43 Arizona city

44 Male deer

45 Honey holder

46 Ms. Thurman

47 Yule quaff

49 Post-op area

Solution time: 25 mins.

P	L	U	G	R	A	P	S	F	B	I
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F	U	N	N	Y	B	O	N	E	C	A
S	T	A	R	E	S	A	B	E	T	S
A	R	F	S	P	H	I	B	O	M	B
T	A	I	H	A	T	O	O	O		
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R	A	B	B	I	P	R	I	D	E	S
A	B	U	F	I	R	S	T	B	O	R
R	E	F	T	R	E	S	I	N	G	A
A	L	F	S	E	P	T	S	T	O	P

Yesterday's answer 12-27

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hay- ley Williams, 31; Emilie de Ravin, 38; Gerard Depardieu, 71; John Amos, 80.

Happy Birthday: Put your heart and soul into whatever it is you want to achieve. The only way to get things done this year is to do them your- self. Dig in, and don't stop until you are satisfied with the results you get. A change that will benefit you personally, emotionally and financially looks promising if you execute your actions with preci- sion. Your numbers are 7, 11, 23, 25, 31, 38, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Spend time with people who bring out the best in you. A little romance will bring you closer to someone you love. Discuss plans that you can put into play next year. Consider how you can lower stress and improve health. \*\*

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Head to your destination of choice. Whether it is a mental, physical or emotional journey, you'll get a better understanding of what you need to know and do to move forward. An older relative will offer insightful information regard- ing your background. \*\*\*\*\*

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Primp, pamper and put your mind at ease re- garding your personal finances. Taking the time to regenerate mentally, physically and financially will ease your mind and lower stress. Romance is encouraged. \*\*\*

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look at the possibilities, and discuss your plans with someone you want to include in your life. A look at your financial situation will

help you decide how much you can put aside for something special you want to pursue. \*\*\*

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You have op- tions, but not all of them will be in your best interest. Don't make personal or physical changes impulsively. Do your research, and plan your actions with moderation, health and emotional well-being in mind. Choose rest over exertion. \*\*\*\*

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A change you want to make can be put in motion. Make all the arrangements to pursue your goal. Socializing will help you promote the new you and will help line up who you want to include in your plans. \*\*\*\*\*

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Talk the talk and walk the walk. Know what you are up against, how much it will cost and how best to proceed. Refuse to let anyone take over or deter you from following your heart. Choose love and romance over discord. \*\*

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take a look at the past, absorb what's transpired and consider what's best for you moving forward. Protect against physical injury or tak- ing an unnecessary risk. Focus on turning your dream into a reality. Put a plan together, and fol- low through. \*\*\*\*

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't spend impulsively or give in to someone in hopes that he or she will do something in return for you. Be realistic; weigh the pros, cons and consequence of your actions; and do what's best for you. \*\*\*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Start the ball rolling. It's time to take a look at what's transpired and the options avail- able to you. Having a sound plan in place can make a massive difference in the way you live from this day forward. \*\*\*

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't take a risk. Sit tight and put your feet up. An unexpected financial boost or an opportunity that will encourage you to sell some- thing you enjoy making is heading your way. In- novative plans will lead to prosperity. \*\*\*

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Offer help, and it will bring you closer to someone who can enrich your life. Look for oppor- tunities that interest you, and formulate a propos- al that you can pitch next year. Don't let yourself get run down. Rest before end-of-the-year festi- vities. \*\*\*\*

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, helpful and responsible. You are inquisitive and thoughtful.

Visit [Eugenialast.com](http://Eugenialast.com), or join Eugenia on Twit- ter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2019 Andrews McMeel Syndication

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16				17			
18						19	20			
		21				22		23	24	25
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50					51			52		
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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			4		8			
	3	4				5	6	
	6						8	
5			9		6			2
4			2	7				9
	2						5	
	1	7				3	9	
			7	3				

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12/27

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	6	9	5	3	1	7	4	8
4	8	1	7	9	2	5	6	3
3	7	5	6	4	8	2	9	1
9	1	2	3	7	6	8	5	4
5	3	6	9	8	4	1	2	7
7	4	8	2	1	5	6	3	9
8	2	4	1	5	9	3	7	6
6	9	7	8	2	3	4	1	5
1	5	3	4	6	7	9	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★★

12/26

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — hori- zontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

1. WORDS

Solution: 7 letters

L H E V I T O M O C O L O U D  
L A C C L E R E B M I L E T Y  
I L N N U L A M M A S L E L R  
A N O G U T I M I L E K I A E  
B R A C U A T E L D C B V R T  
I E K Y A A L E G O E R O T T  
L T L R L L G E L R A B H F O  
I N N A O L E E A L A G O L L  
T A D R U L A T C L I L I G  
Y L L B O G E G A L L M C U L  
E A O I T U H R E L E E B L O  
L M T L A C I G O L N Y A S N  
U E U L A P T O P S D N E N E  
R N S L O U N G E A D N I L L  
K T N E M A G I L I B E R T Y

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Labor, Ladle, Ladybug, Lament, Lammas, Land, Language, Lantern, Laptops, Large, Larva, Late, Laugh, Launch, League, Lean, Ledge, Legal, Lettuce, Liability, Liberate, Liberty, Library, License, Ligament, Light, Limber, Limbo, Limbs, Lime, Limit, Linda, Loan, Local, Locket, Locomotive, Loft, Logical, Loiter, Lonely, Lottery, Lotus, Loud, Lounge, Luck, Lurk

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# Broncos hopeful after longest playoff drought



**DENVER** (AP)—After changing his head coach or starting quarterback each of the past five winters, John Elway seems to have finally hit on rookies Vic Fangio and Drew Lock.

A second-round draft pick from Missouri, Lock has won three of four starts, injecting a mix of nerve, novelty and mobility into a position that's been a torrent of trouble in Denver ever since Peyton Manning's retirement.

Since a winless September that featured two last-second losses, the Broncos have gone 6-5 under Fangio, a first-year head coach at age 61.

While the Broncos are finally feeling good about the two most important positions on the team, their ugly 2-6 start has doomed Denver to a third consecutive losing season for the first time since the Nixon administration.

A loss Sunday to Oakland (7-8) would give the Broncos a third straight season with double-digit losses, something that hasn't happened in more than half a century.

Only two other Super Bowl winners have followed their victory parade with four consecutive non-playoff seasons—the post-Vince Lombardi Green Bay Packers and the New York Giants following Eli Manning's second upset of Tom Brady and the New England Patriots in 2012.

"It's like eating at a five-star restaurant and then next thing you know, you're eating at McDonald's every day," defensive end Derek Wolfe said.

"When you're winning, everybody loves you. When you're losing, everybody's looking at you, like 'Oh, maybe it's his fault.' And you take burden on yourself, you take that loss on yourself," said Wolfe, who's on IR with an elbow injury. "A true leader points fingers back at himself. So, it's like I'm taking responsibility for all these losses, and it's like, man, what more can I do?"

The Packers and Giants also posted three losing records during their four-year playoff drought following Super Bowl wins, but Green Bay (.452) and New York (.438) had better winning percentages during their skid than Denver's .428 winning clip since 2016.

"It breaks your heart to keep losing like this," Wolfe said after a loss at Buffalo last month.

"It just defeats my soul," suggested linebacker Von Miller after a loss at Kansas City two weeks ago.

There are three other starters still on the roster who won Super Bowl 50 rings and all of them said they understand such deep feelings over the



AP  
Denver Broncos tight end Noah Fant (87) reaches as he is knocked out of bounds by Detroit Lions cornerback Darius Slay during the first half of an NFL game, Sunday, Dec. 22, 2019, in Denver.

Broncos' 27-36 record since beating Carolina for the title.

"Oh yeah, definitely. I hate to lose," cornerback Chris Harris Jr. said. "They definitely dig into me."

Inside linebacker Todd Davis said lots of teams go through tough times but when they follow a successful Super Bowl run, the losing is harder to take—and shake.

"They say the worst feeling is to have something and then lose it," Davis said. "If you've never had it, you don't understand the feeling. If you've been there and you won it, that's all you want. All you want is that feeling again."

Kicker Brandon McManus said the precipitous decline is what bothers him the most.

"I think it hurts even worst for the fact that we won the Super Bowl and didn't even make the playoffs the year afterward, even though we were 9-7," McManus said. "So you went right off the mountain down to the bottom, so you didn't even slope down the hill. It was more of just you crashed."

"So, losing now obviously I definitely agree it hurts because we know the work we put in during the week and the grind is the same, it's just that we're not getting the same results."

Unlike Davis, who said it hurts too much to watch the playoffs, McManus can't turn away from the postseason.

"Yeah, I watch every game. I'm a football fan at heart," said McManus, who set an NFL record by going 10-for-10 on field goals in the Broncos' run to their most recent title. "It's difficult not playing in the playoffs because we've done it and that's all our aspirations is to get there and to play in the big game."

"There's nothing we can do about it now. Obviously, we didn't do enough early in the season to give us a chance here down the stretch, but we're looking forward to figuring out the best way to make sure we're not sitting here in the same position next year."

All five of those Super Bowl 50 veterans said there's reason for optimism in Denver—even more so if Harris and Wolfe don't leave via free agency—because the Broncos finally have stability at head coach and quarterback.

"It's a stepping stone in the right direction," McManus said. "Now you know who you're rolling with."

## 49ers, Seahawks clash for NFC West title

The NFC West will be decided Sunday night in the NFL's final game of the regular season. Too bad only one of the participants has anything close to its full side.

San Francisco (12-3) visits Seattle and the winner takes the division and possibly even more. But the Seahawks are severely undermanned on defense and in the offensive backfield. So much so that they dug into their past to bulk up their running game.

Marshawn Lynch brings Beast Mode back to the Pacific Northwest after the Seahawks' backfield was decimated by injuries.

"What I needed to hear from him is where his heart is. Is he in it and does he want to go for it? Which he totally does," Seattle coach Pete Carroll says. "He's worked to prove that. I don't doubt him one bit about that. He's very sincere about how he presents himself to this game and it's very important to him to be at his best and do well, and he's going to do everything he can to make that happen."

Lynch last played in Seattle in January 2016. If he is in a modicum of shape, he could contribute as Seattle seeks a better spot in the postseason.

The Niners, meanwhile, will earn home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs should they win.

San Francisco, ranked third in the AP Pro32, is a 3-point choice over No. 7 Seattle.

### Garoppolo must deal with Seattle crowd noise

Sunday's game against the Seahawks in Seattle will be the biggest test of Jimmy Garoppolo's career.

Granted, he hasn't had many tests yet—he has started only 25 games. And he has passed most of the tests opponents have presented him — his record is 20-5.

But Garoppolo hasn't started a game at Seattle's CenturyLink Field, one of the loudest, gloomiest, most difficult places for opponents to play in the NFL, particularly for inexperienced quarterbacks. Since 2010, QBs with 25 or fewer career starts have won just six of 28 games in Seattle.

If the 49ers lose on Sunday, they'll be a wild-card team and start their quest for the Super Bowl on the road.

There's plenty at stake for Garoppolo and the 49ers in Seattle.

"They've had as good of

a 10-year run defensively as probably anyone in the history of football," 49ers head coach Kyle Shanahan said of the Seahawks. "Then you add in the elements of their stadium, where you can't hear. When you can't use cadence and you're going up against a very skilled team with a pass rush, it's extremely hard."

Cadence is a quarterback's snap count. Garoppolo won't be able to verbally communicate on the field in Seattle, so the 49ers will have to use a silent count, which the Seahawks' pass rushers can time and anticipate. Advantage: Seattle.

Garoppolo missed the 49ers' game at Seattle last season with a torn ACL. His backup, Nick Mullens, threw for 414 yards—the most a quarterback with 25 or fewer career starts has ever recorded against the Seahawks in Seattle. Although Mullens handled the noise well, the 49ers lost 43-16.

How will Garoppolo fare?

"I can tell Jimmy it will be exactly like New Orleans was," Shanahan said. "I've been in New Orleans a bunch, but it was different last time we were there. It was as loud as I've been anywhere. So last time in New Orleans was tied

with how Seattle is. I thought Garoppolo handled himself well there, and expect him to do the same in Seattle."

Garoppolo passed for 349 yards and four touchdowns at New Orleans on Dec. 8, and the 49ers beat the Saints 48-46. That was perhaps the best game of Garoppolo's career, and it showed him what to expect Sunday in Seattle.

"It's going to be a 60-minute game," Garoppolo said. "You have to have your mind ready for that. When you get to these big games, two good football teams, it's always going to go up until the last whistle, and we've had multiple experiences this year like that."

The 49ers kept it close earlier this season at home against the Seahawks before losing in overtime. Garoppolo played poorly: His quarterback rating was 66.2, he fumbled twice and the Seahawks recovered both times.

Garoppolo played that game without his top target, tight end George Kittle, and wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders missed most of that game with broken ribs. Sanders and Kittle will play Sunday in Seattle, giving Garoppolo more weapons against the hostile crowd.



# Kawhi, Clippers rally to beat Lakers



**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—The Los Angeles Clippers were resilient and dominant in the second half to put away the Los Angeles Lakers, using the NBA's marquee Christmas game to show why the city and the Western Conference might belong to them this season.

Kawhi Leonard scored 11 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter and had 12 rebounds and five assists to help the Clippers beat Lakers 111-106 on Wednesday night.

The Clippers trailed by 12 points at halftime, by 15 in the third quarter, and by seven in the fourth quarter with 6:39 remaining, but they rallied to improve to 2-0 against the Lakers this season.

"And we didn't flinch," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "Like, we just kind of hung in there. Almost felt like we were biding our time and just trying to make a run. That's something you have to have when things aren't going great for you. You just got to hang in there, and I thought we did that tonight."

Leonard set a franchise record for points on Christmas, and he became the 10th player in NBA history with at least 35 points, 10 rebounds and five assists on Dec. 25.

Montrezl Harrell had 18 points off the bench, and Paul George added 17, and the Clippers are 15-2 at Staples Center.

"We have so many interchanging parts," Clippers guard Lou Williams said. "We have guys that's going to have big nights. I think I had five or six points tonight, and that's just how this team is built. It's

going to be different guys every night."

Kyle Kuzma led Los Angeles with 25 points. LeBron James had 23 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds, and Anthony Davis had 24 points. The Lakers have lost four straight games.

Williams made two free throws—after a questionable foul call against Davis for tapping the swingman after his transition layup rimmed out—to give the Clippers a 105-103 lead with 3:29 to go.

Leonard, who had a 3 to cap a 7-0 run and tie it at 101 with 5:14 remaining, then made four late free throws.

"They wanted it more," Davis said. "We had a lot of mistakes down at the end of the game, mental mistakes at both ends of the floor. We fouled a lot in the fourth quarter, put them to the line. & We gave that one away."

Los Angeles had a chance to tie in the final seconds, but video review showed James touched the ball last after Patrick Beverly knocked it away as James went up for a 3. George hit two free throws for the final margin.

"That wasn't the game right there," James said. "I mean, it's a big play and you want to try to get it right, but it wasn't where the game was lost."

## Celtics 118, Raptors 102

In Toronto, Boston's Jaylen Brown celebrated Christmas with something he had never enjoyed before: a road win.

Brown scored 30 points, Kemba Walker had 22 and the Celtics beat the Raptors in the first Christmas Day NBA game played in Canada.

"It was good to get a win



here on Christmas," said Brown, who made five 3-pointers and shot 10 for 13 from the field. "I've never won here period, so it was great to just get one."

Enes Kanter had 12 points and 11 rebounds as the Celtics snapped an eight-game losing streak north of the border and became the first Atlantic Division opponent to win in Toronto in more than four years.

The Celtics have won four straight to improve to 8-2 in December.

Boston's Gordon Hayward returned to the starting lineup after missing the past three games because of a sore left foot. He scored 14 points in 26 minutes.

"It's still a little sore but it's playable," Hayward said. "It's good, it's good."

Fred VanVleet scored 27 points in the Raptors' second

straight loss.

## 76ers 121, Bucks 109

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid was unyielding under the basket, arms extended sky high as Giannis Antetokounmpo tried to plow through the All-Star center for a bucket. Embiid absorbed the contact and slapped the ball out of Antetokounmpo's hands, one of a bountiful of disruptive plays triggered by the big man.

Embiid used a national showcase to play like an MVP, and the Sixers pushed around a Bucks team that had the best record in the NBA.

"A lot of people have kind of forgotten who I am," Embiid said. "When I'm needed, I'm going to show up."

Embiid had 31 points and 11 rebounds in Philadelphia's first home Christmas

game in 31 years, and the 3-point happy 76ers beat Milwaukee.

Tobias Harris sank five 3s, Josh Richardson and Furkan Korkmaz each had four and even Embiid hit three as part of Philly's franchise record-tying 21 3s (on 44 attempts) in its most complete game of the season.

## Warriors 116, Rockets 104

In San Francisco, Damion Lee made a statement on a rare big stage this season for injury-ravaged Golden State.

Lee had 22 points and a career-high 15 rebounds, Draymond Green scored 16 of his 20 points in the second half and the Warriors beat the Houston Rockets.

"I'm thankful that we got the win, but there's still things that I feel I have to get better

at day in and day out to fully solidify myself as an NBA player and not a two-way," Lee said.

D'Angelo Russell added 20 points, and Glenn Robinson III had 18 to help the Warriors win their third straight and end the Rockets' four-game winning streak. Golden State improved to 8-24.

## Pelicans 112, Nuggets 100

In Denver, Brandon Ingram had no clue how many 3-pointers he'd made until a voice from across the locker room informed him.

Seven. An assist to injured rookie Zion Williamson for providing the pertinent information.

Ingram scored 31 points, including a career-high in 3-pointers, and the New Orleans Pelicans surprised Denver to halt the Nuggets' seven-game winning streak.

Rarely has Ingram's shot felt as pure as it did — from deep anyway.

"It's been college and high school," Ingram said of his long-range accuracy. "They (teammates) found me when I was open. I had the confidence to knock it down."

The 9-23 Pelicans are now 2-0 against the Nuggets this season. They spoiled the festive mood at the Pepsi Center as the Nuggets played at home on Christmas for the first time in 25 years.

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# Woods' comeback at Masters takes the cake



A green jacket. A heart-melting embrace. A stirring return to the top of golf by one of the sport's all-time greats.

In choosing Tiger Woods' victory at the Masters as The Associated Press sports story of the year, voters went with the uplifting escape of a great comeback over options that were as much about sports as the issues that enveloped them in 2019: politics, money and the growing push for equal pay and equal rights for women.

The balloters, a mix of AP member sports editors and AP beat writers, elevated Woods' rousing victory at Augusta National over the runner-up entry: the U.S. women's soccer team's victory at the World Cup. That monthlong competition was punctuated by star Megan Rapinoe's push for pay equality for the women's team and an ongoing war of words with President Donald Trump.

Rapinoe's efforts to use sports as a platform to discuss bigger issues was hardly a one-off in 2019. Of the top 12 stories in the balloting, only three - titles won by the Toronto Raptors, Washington Nationals and University of Virginia basketball team—stuck mainly to what happened between the lines.

All the rest—including the blown call that cost the Saints a chance at the Super Bowl, a California law that threatens to upend the NCAA and Simone Biles' dominance at gymnastics' world championships, set against the backdrop of the sex-abuse crisis consuming the sport in the U.S.—were long-running sagas that went beyond a single day or event. They painted sports not as an escape from the world's problems but merely another window into them.

It's no stretch to say that the whole of the Woods saga—namely, the sordid, pain-riddled, decade-long prelude to his victory at Augusta National in April—would fit into that category, as well.

His downfall began in the wee hours the day after Thanksgiving in 2009, when he ran over a fire hydrant outside his house in Florida, triggering an avalanche of stories about infidelity that would lead to the breakup



of his marriage and play into the near-destruction of his career.

Part 2 was the injuries. Woods came close but did not return to his dominant form after his return to golf following his breakup with his wife. And as time went on, his physical condition deteriorated. He didn't play in 2016 or 2017, and at the end of '17, he conceded his back was so bad that his days of competitive golf might be behind him.

There were four risky back surgeries. Woods also required a good deal of inner healing after a mortifying DUI arrest in 2017 that exposed his reliance on painkillers.

Through it all, Woods somehow kept nurturing his love for golf. And eventually, he found his game again. He climbed his way back to the top. He had close calls at two majors in 2018 - the British Open and PGA Championship - and then won the

season-ending Tour Championship, as good a sign as any that, at 43, he could take on the best and win.

But regular tournaments are not the majors, and no major is the Masters.

It was on those hallowed grounds at Augusta National where Woods set the marker, starting a decade of dominance that would redefine the game. He blew away the field by 12 strokes in 1997 to win the first of what has become five green jackets and 15 ma-

AP  
In this April 14, 2019 file photo, Tiger Woods reacts as he wins the Masters golf tournament, in Augusta, Ga.

jor titles.

On that day, Woods came off the 18th green and wrapped himself in a warm embrace with his father, Earl, whose death in 2006 left an undeniable void in the player's life.

Though there had been a handful of close calls between his U.S. Open victory in 2008 and the start of 2019, it was clear that if there was a single course where Woods could conjure the old magic and end a major drought, it would be Augusta National. As a four-time champion, Woods built a career on studying every inch of the layout, knowing every fault line and every sneaky twist and turn of the slickest greens on earth.

But where, at one time, he might have overpowered the course and intimidated the competition, in 2019, he simply outlasted them both. He avoided mistakes while everyone else was making them. Instead of taking a lead into the last day, then never giving anyone a whiff of hope, this was a comeback. He started the day two shots behind.

As AP Golf Writer Doug Ferguson wrote in his wrapup of the final day: "Woods never missed a shot that mattered over the final seven holes, taking the lead with a 5-iron to the fat of the green on the par-5 15th for a two-putt birdie, delivering the knockout with an 8-iron that rode down the ridge by the cup and settled 2 feet away for birdie on the par-3 16th."

When it was over, Woods came to the same spot where he'd met Earl 22 years before. He scooped up his son, Charlie, and held him in a long embrace, then did the same with his 11-year-old daughter, Sam, and mother, Tilda.

"For them to see what it's like to have their dad win a major championship, I hope that's something they will never forget," Woods said.

Very few golf fans will. And in a sports year dominated by weightier topics, Woods at the Masters stood out—a comeback story that left people smiling at the end.

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Gary Woodland was runner-up twice against strong fields in South Korea and Kapalua. He won the U.S. Open. He had another top-10 finish at the PGA Championship. And it still wasn't enough to earn one of eight automatic spots on the Presidents Cup team.

So imagine the difficulty in making the next team.

Not the Ryder Cup—the Olympics.

"That's got to be the hardest thing in golf," said Kevin Kisner, currently No. 34 in the world and 16th among the Americans who will try to capture one of the four spots at the end of Olympic qualifying on June 22.

## Olympic golf team toughest to make for Americans

Unlike golf's return to the Olympics in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, where concerns over the Zika virus and security led the top four players in the world to skip, all the top players want to be in Tokyo for the opening round on July 30.

Each country can send two players, with a maximum of four if they are among the top 15 in the world ranking. With six months to go, the top four Americans are Brooks Koepka, Justin Thomas, Dustin Johnson and Tiger Woods. Five other Americans are among the top 15.

"Huge," Thomas replied when asked if the Olympics

were a big deal to him. "I really want to be on that team."

Thomas has not finished lower than third in the standings for the last three Presidents Cup and Ryder Cup teams. With the number of qualifiers cut in half, there is less of a margin.

"Especially when you look at the world ranking. It changes every week," he said. "It's so dense to where it could go into the last week between two guys."

Woods sat out all of 2016 and the Olympics did not appear to be part of his future. And then he had fusion surgery on his lower back, won

the Masters and is among the elite again. Now, the Tokyo Games have his attention, especially after winning in Japan last month.

"I know some of my friends have made Olympic teams before and they said it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience," Woods said. "I have never played for a gold medal before and certainly it would be an honor to do it, and especially at the age I'll be, I'll be 44 and I don't know if I have many more chances after that."

It also has the attention of Xander Schauffele, who has additional incentive. His ma-

ternal grandparents live in Japan—it's where his mother was raised—and his father, Stefan Schauffele, had his own Olympic aspirations for Germany until he was hit by a drunken driver on his way to a training camp for decathletes.

"He spent his life training, preparing, tracking for his big moment in the Olympics," the younger Schauffele said. "He's been pushing me along when I needed it, encouraging me, kicking me in the (tail) when I needed it. It's cool he can see the results come to fruition, which he wasn't able to see for himself. It's a special thing to share."

Meanwhile, with his victory Sunday at the Australian PGA, Adam Scott has all but locked up a spot in the 2020 Olympics.

Yet the 39-year-old Aussie, ranked No. 13 in the Official World Golf Ranking and ninth in the current Olympic rankings, remains undecided on his participation in the event.

"I'm just going to take my time and see; I mean, I've made it clear it's not my priority, but I wouldn't rule it out," Scott told reporters during his victory at Royal Pines.

Scott opted to skip the 2016 Olympics in Rio, golf's return to the Games after an 112-year absence, citing scheduling concerns. "My decision



# White Sox, Encarnacion agree to \$12M, 1-year deal



**CHICAGO**  
(AP)—The  
C h i c a g o  
White Sox

have agreed to a \$12 million, one-year contract with veteran slugger Edwin Encarnacion, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Wednesday night.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal has not been announced.

Encarnacion is due \$11 million in salary next season and a \$1 million signing bonus, with the White Sox holding an option for the 2021 season.

Encarnacion hit 34 home runs in 109 games for Seattle and the Yankees last season. The three-time All-Star led

the American League with 21 homers when the Mariners dealt him to New York in June. But the Yankees declined an option for next season after he was limited by oblique problems down the stretch.

Encarnacion batted .249 with 13 homers and 37 RBI in 44 regular-season games with the Yankees. He hit .308 while New York pounded Minnesota in the AL Division Series, but slumped badly in the AL Championship Series against Houston.

Encarnacion, turns 37 on Jan. 7, has eight straight seasons with more than 30 homers. He has 414 homers in 15 years with Cincinnati, Toronto, Cleveland, Seattle and

New York.

He figures to serve as the designated hitter and play first base along with slugger Jose Abreu.

The White Sox have been loading up around a promising young core, hoping to challenge in the AL Central after seven straight losing seasons. Encarnacion joins former AL Cy Young Award winner Dallas Keuchel and catcher Yasmani Grandal as big-money additions this offseason.

The White Sox agreed Saturday to a \$55.5 million, three-year deal with Keuchel, a day after finalizing a one-year contract with two-time All-Star

pitcher Gio Gonzalez. They also brought back Abreu on a \$50 million, three-year deal and acquired outfielder Nomar Mazara from the Texas Rangers.

The White Sox were 72-89 last season, well behind the 101-win Minnesota Twins and 93-win Cleveland Indians. But they believe they are in position to make a big jump after missing the playoffs for the 13th time in 14 years since their 2005 World Series championship. That's because young players established themselves in the majors and promising prospects remain in the pipeline.

Tim Anderson led the majors with a .335 average last year. Yoan Moncada had a breakthrough season, hitting .315 with 25 homers and 79 RBI. Eloy Jimenez showed pop as a rookie, with a .267 average, 31 homers and 79 RBI. Prized outfielder Luis Robert figures to debut next spring, and top prospect Nick Madrigal might also be ready to get significant time at second base.

Keuchel and Gonzalez will join a rotation led by All-Star Lucas Giolito that also includes Reynaldo Lopez and Dylan Cease. Promising young right-hander Michael

Kopech is also expected to return following Tommy John surgery.

Meanwhile, the New York Mets have reached an agreement with free-agent reliever Dellin Betances on a one-year contract with a player option for 2021.

The Mets announced the deal with the four-time All Star on Tuesday. Betances is guaranteed \$10.5 million under the contract.

The 31-year-old, who is from New York, is staying in his hometown after spending his first eight seasons in the majors with the Yankees.

## CLOSE

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two field goals for Eats Easy.

Ferrer then kept going in the second overtime period to save the day for AK, which improved its record to 2-1.

Meanwhile, after a sorry loss to AK in last Dec. 19 game, Eats Easy this time came out victorious in another tough match, pulling off an 84-82 win over Shirley's Coffee Shop.

Fidelino, Factor, and Clint Albert joined forces in handing Eats Easy the 2-point victory. Fidelino delivered 22 points, 7 of them came in the fourth canto, while Albert had 11 in the second half where Eats Easy recovered from a 34-42 deficit. Factor chipped in 17, 13 of them were recorded in the last half of the game.

The trio gave Eats Easy its second victory in three games. Shirley's, which was led by

the 25 points of John Mendiola, absorbed its first loss after winning its debut (versus Saipan Vegas).

### Thursday's Game

**AK Toyota 82**—Ferrer 28, Lilles 19, Brennan 12, Sekool 11, Coldeen 6, Guilas 2, Joyner 1.

**Eats Easy The Game 80**—Arellano 21, Fidelino 17, Erdene 11, Javier 10, Cabaltica 8, Factor 7, Dayao 4.

**Scoring by quarters:** 19-18, 35-39, 46-50, 65-65, 70-70 (1OT), 82-80 (2OT).

### Sunday's Game

**Eats Easy The Game 84**—Fidelino 22, Albert 18, Factor 17, Sablan 14, Cabaltica 5, Torregozo 4, Dayao 2.

**Shirley's 82**—Mendiola 25, Pelisamen 19, Flores 13, Duenas 10, Aranda 8, Diaz 5, Lisua 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 17-22, 34-42, 57-56, 84-82.



In this Oct. 5, 2019 file photo, New York Yankees designated hitter Edwin Encarnacion follows through on a base hit to drive in a run against the Minnesota Twins during the first inning of Game 2 of an American League Division Series in New York.

## TANHOLDINGS

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In the women's division, the Lady Ol'Aces will take on the Baby Ol'Aces at 3pm, while CTSI will collide with Lady Rollers at 5pm. The Lady Ol'Aces are unbeaten in two games and aiming to keep their undefeated record, while both the Baby Ol'Aces and CTSI are gunning for win No. 2 as they hold similar 1-1 marks. The Lady Rollers are winless after two matches.

In the boys U18 game, the 670 Sonics will duel Rollers 1 at 4pm; Rollers 2 will square off against Ol'Aces 1 at 6pm; and Ol'Aces 3 will challenge Fiesta Resort at 7pm.

For Monday's game, the schedule is as follows: Lady Rollers vs Lady Ol'Aces at 5:30pm; Rollers 3 vs Ol'Aces 1 at 6:30pm; CTSI vs Baby Ol'Aces at 7:30pm; and Fiesta Resort vs 670 Sonics at 8:30pm.



Ol'Aces 1's Andrew Omelau drives against two Rollers 2 defenders during their game in the boys U18 division of the 2019 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament earlier this month at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

## EATS

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lifting Eats Easy to a 3-1 half-time edge. He scored in the 11th, 12th, and 24th, while his goals in the second half were recorded in the 36th, 40th, and 56th. Sedillo delivered goals for Eats Easy in the 49th, 61st, and 63rd minute, while Jershwin Angeles' pair came in the 44th and 70th.

As for Matansa's side, Dhiraj Chhetri handed the losing squad its lone goal in the first half (20th minute) and he added one more in the 65th. Jack Phan, Lar Wongpaya, Amzan Khan, and Kamrul Kamrul also lit up the board for Matansa, scoring in the 59th, 67th, 68th, and 70th minute, respectively.

Meanwhile, Trey Dunn towed Paire to the close win after making three goals, while Whit Altizer gave their squad the insurance in the second half.

Dunn handed Paire its first



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Paire's Steve McKagan kicks the ball during the second half of their game against Los Viejos in the 8x8 NMIFA Masters League 2019 last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Kobleville.

two goals—fifth and 28th minute—but Los Viejo's Dan Wollak countered with a brace, too—second and 29th—bringing the game back to square one after the first half. Dunn made it three in a row with his goal in the 37th to put Paire back into the driver's seat, while Yoji Singh's shot in the 46th minute gave their

squad more cushion, 4-2.

A Tyce Mister goal in the 49th minute kept Los Viejos in the game, but Altizer answered five minutes later to secure it for Paire. Los Viejos scored one more goal, but ran out of time to mount a comeback, as its last shot came in the final minute of the 70-minute match.





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hopeful after  
longest playoff  
drought**

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Clippers  
rally to beat  
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Eats Easy nears sweep

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**E**ats Easy inched closer to a sweep of the preliminary games in the 8x8 NMIFA Masters League 2019, while Paire battled back from its debut loss in the competition for players in the 35-and-above age group.

Eats Easy notched its second victory in as many games after topping Matansa, 11-6, last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville, while Paire nipped Los Viejos, 5-4, in the other match to enter the win column. Eats Easy, which got its first triumph over Paire, 9-4, will close out its assignment in the round-robin pre-



liminaries this Sunday when it takes on Los Viejos. Paire, on the other hand, will meet Matansa and results of the last two pair of matches will determine the seeding in the playoffs. The No. 1 finisher will take on the No. 4 squad for the first finals ticket, while the No. 2 and 3 teams will battle in the other semis duel. The semis will be played on Jan. 5 and

the winners of the two games will square off for the title on Jan. 12.

Eats Easy moved a win away from getting the top seeding, as it pulled away from Matansa in the second half.

The unbeaten squad collected eight goals in the final 35 minutes of play with Kosuke Sato and Fradel Sedillo teaming up in the assault after firing three goals each. Sato also had three goals in the first half,

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Matansa Football Club's Gabriel Arkoh, Sr., center, is sandwiched by Eats Easy defenders Panapa Peteru, right, and Kosuke Sato during the second half of their game in the 8x8 NMIFA Masters League 2019 last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



## Close win for AK, Eats Easy The Game

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Atkins Kroll Toyota needed not just one, but two extra periods to thwart Eats Easy The Game, 82-80, in the Open Division match in the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League last week.

Frank Ferrer stepped up in the extension for AK after

scoring 13 points to finish with a game-high 28 markers. Chris Lilles also contributed to AK's close win, making 8 markers in the fourth canto and 3 in the first overtime to earn double figures with his 19 points.

Lilles also had 8 markers in the opening frame, giving AK a shay 19-18 lead. AK then failed

to keep the upper hand, as Jun Fidelino showed up for Eats Easy and fired 13 points in the second quarter to grab the driver's seat at the break, 39-35.

Eats Easy kept the lead in the third period, 50-46, but AK battled back in the fourth behind Lilles, Ferrer, and John Sekool to force the standoff at the end of regulation, 65-all. The match was still tied after five extra minutes, 70-all, with Ferrer scoring all of AK's five points and Reynald Cabaltica and Prince Factor making the

**See CLOSE on Page 31**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Atkins Kroll Toyota players and officials huddle during a break in their game against Eats Easy The Game in the Open Division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CTSI's Nanaka Watanabe, third left, is in a footrace with Lady Ol'Aces players as they chase the ball during the second half of their game in the 2019 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

## TanHoldings holiday caging resumes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



The 2019 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament will return to action tomorrow at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Four matches will be played at the resumption of the holiday competition that took a break for nearly two weeks to give way to the repair work at the facility at the

TSL Sports Complex.

In the first game at 4pm, Rollers 1 will take on Rollers 2 in the boys U18 division. The three other matches will also feature boys U18 teams with Rollers 3 battling the 670 Sonics in the second game at 5pm, Ol'Aces 3 facing Ol'Aces 2 in the third tiff at 6pm, and Fiesta Resort meeting Ol'Aces 1 in the last duel at 7pm.

The Ol'Aces 1 and Rollers 1 are tied for the early lead in the division after having won their first two games. The

Rollers 2 holds a 1-1 mark, while Rollers 3 has a 0-2 slate, the same record that the Ol'Aces 3 owns, and the Ol'Aces 1 has a 0-1 card.

The tournament will play for two more days—Sunday and Monday—before taking a short break to give way to New Year's celebration.

This Sunday, five matches will take place at the newly resurfaced Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

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